

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Interim Report

Hi [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]

I did have a good break, thanks and I hope you did too.

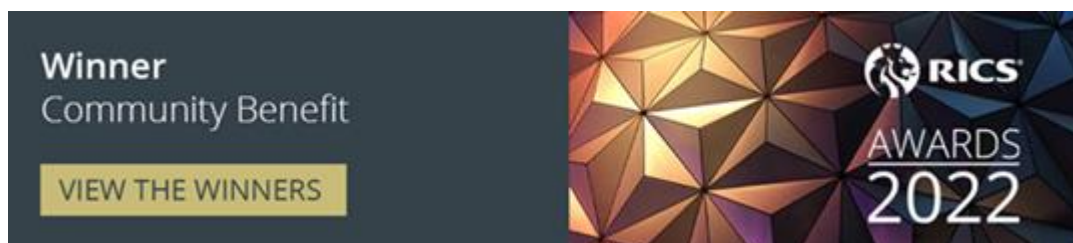
Can we go for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> @ 11.00 am.

Regards

Paauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910



*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SCO39277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

**From:** [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 05 January 2023 16:23  
**To:** Pauline Grandison  
**Cc:** [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis  
**Subject:** RE: Interim Report

Hi Pauline

Happy New Year! I hope you had a good break over Christmas.

Thank you for getting back to me, that's good to know on the timing for the evaluation and it will be really helpful to meet and talk through how this and other progress is shaping your planning for the coming year.

I have some suggested dates that [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data] and I are currently available below which hopefully will match an available space for you both:

Thursday 12 Jan afternoon (from 2pm onwards)  
Monday 16 Jan morning  
Monday 23 Jan morning  
Wednesday 25 Jan morning

if you can let me know if any of these are suitable, if not I'll look for some alternatives.

Best wishes

[redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 22 December 2022 11:11  
**To:** [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]@gov.scot  
Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Interim Report

Hi [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]

Thank you for your email.

With regards to the evaluation we are looking at this being completed beginning of February.

With regards to the other points it would be appreciated if we could meet with yourself, [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data] and Gary early January to discuss these further.

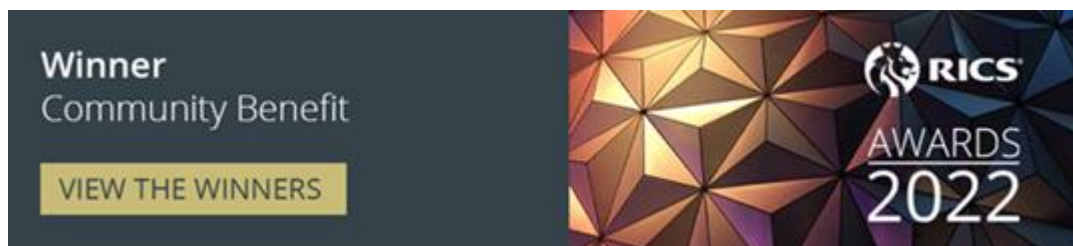
Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New year and look forward to catching up with you soon.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910



*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SC039277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

**From:** [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 21 December 2022 17:31  
**To:** Pauline Grandison  
**Cc:** [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Interim Report

Hi Pauline

Thank you for sending in your interim report, with my sincere apologies for taking until now to reply.

It would be helpful to have an update on the likely revised timescales for when the evaluation report will be available. We anticipated that the evaluation would provide a helpful insight to inform future programme delivery and keen to understand if this is still possible?

I note the changes with the 4 key projects that were planned to secure/refurb local assets and I am sure that you will be disappointed that these have not moved

forward as in the way you had planned. It will be helpful to get an update on where you are with an alternative site in Cowdenbeath and what your expectations are around the projects that have stalled in Dalmellington, and any update on property investment in Fife. These projects we felt had great potential for contributing to regeneration in the communities and would potentially support new avenues of income generation for CRT.

Given where we are in the financial year these questions may be influencing factors in developing the programme for CRT next year.

You will no doubt be aware the budget has now been published and of the challenging financial situation faced. We do expect to offer CRT a grant for 2023/24 but are unlikely to provide the same level of funding. We would ask you to consider in developing your proposal what you would deliver with a budget of £650k.

We have spoken previously about the engagement work you have supported and delivered through the programme to date, and potential for building on this concentrating on a set a key regeneration projects. Very happy to meet perhaps in early January to discuss.

I realise this isn't the happiest of news just ahead of the festive break, but look forward to catching up with you in the new year.

Best wishes

[redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 27 October 2022 11:31

**To:** [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]@gov.scot

**Subject:** Interim Report

Hi [redacted S38.(i)(b) Third Party Personal Data]

I hope you are well.

With regards to our previous discussion please find attached interim report which includes financial details.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910



The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SCO39277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.

This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.

*This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

*This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

*This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.*

The 22/23 proposal to Scottish Government was ambitious and focused on area regeneration and income generation. During this time the cost of living crisis has hit hard and had an effect on our planned delivery and the projected level of investment that was anticipated over the three year proposal that was submitted.

CRT are still progressing investment opportunities and to move towards sustainability in Scotland. Over the medium term will require a different approach to the current model of annual grant settlements which are predominantly for revenue based activities and for 25 years have never incorporated a sustainability profile.

Update on capital project;

<p><b>Kincardine and the West Fife Villages</b> Kincardine Town Centre regeneration project. This will be a £3 million investment in the town centre that will see Kincardine move toward potentially becoming a 20-minute neighbourhood. It will increase sustainable active travel, enhance community cohesion and grow its sense of place by improving the public realm in the High Street and surrounding area. CRT will work with social enterprise agencies to reinvigorate the High Street to stimulate the local economy and create new jobs. CRT will also work in partnership with the local communities of the surrounding west Fife villages to ensure that these communities can benefit from Kincardine’s regeneration and live well more locally. This project is being funded through SUSTRANS.</p> <p>The Kincardine Training and Enterprise Hub will recover from Covid-lockdown, becoming a community hub that enables remote working as well as business start-up services and community learning.</p>	<p>Due to full match funding not being able to be achieved the project has been scaled back. The projects has been value engineered and now decisions are being made on the best way to take the project forward, through a phased approach.</p> <p>Opportunities for social enterprises for the High Street are not coming forward.</p> <p>Kincardine Hub has been affected by people continuing to work from home.</p> <p>Training room is being utilised by CRT for a number of training course, but not being utilised by organisations wishing to pay for the facility.</p>
<p><b>Cowdenbeath Town House</b> The derelict building in Cowdenbeath High Street will be transformed into a community asset delivering reduced cost foodstuffs, training facilities for those that need it, social enterprise accommodation and third sector services. The building works will see up to £1 million of funding being attracted into one of Fife’s most disadvantaged communities. The building renovation work will be overseen by CRT Properties. The final services will be informed by Place Plan engagement, but it is currently envisaged the benefits of the project will include new jobs; training and</p>	<p>CRT were working in partnership with Fife Council. A Levelling Up bid to refurbish the building was not successful and CRT were not in a financial position to be able to take this forward. Community Shop were unable to finance refurbishments and also food supplies were proving difficult to be obtained. This project is not going ahead.</p>

skills to improve employability; information and advice to reduce poverty and promote climate change adaptation, and a community hub that enables remote working.

**Dalmellington Hub**

A disused bank in Dalmellington will be refurbished by CRT and will be rented out to third and public sector agencies. This will help build the foundations for the local Development Trust, enhance public sector agency involvement in the area and, in the long- term, provide a focal point for tourist information should the proposed Mountain Bike Centre become viable.

The building has been purchased by CRT. Funding bids have been submitted to East Ayrshire Council and awaiting outcome.

This project will be achieved, but unfortunately slower than had initially been anticipated.

## **Proposal 23/24**

Tackling poverty is high on the agenda for the Scottish Government. The points below as highlighted in an analysis of Coalfield Area Deprivation in Scotland are all contributory factors to poverty within our coalfields communities.

- Continuing deprivation with 30% of coalfield neighbourhoods now in most deprived 20%, and key challenges across education, employment, income, and health domains.
- Coalfield communities have higher rates of 16-19-year olds not in education, employment, or training and fewer 17-21-year olds enrolling in higher education (data is from 2013/14 and 2015/16).
- Rates of child poverty are above average with 17,750 children (21%) living in low income families.
- 2% increase in jobs between 2015 and 2018, in line with the Scottish average. By 2018 the coalfields had 287 jobs per 1,000 people, compared to 467 per 1,000 for the whole of Scotland.
- Overall, the coalfields still have fewer jobs in higher-skill, knowledge intensive industries (financial and insurance, information and communication, business administration, professional and technical, property and other services).
- There are persistent health problems, with Scottish coalfields now in a worse comparative position since the previous SIMD in 2012.

## **2034/24 Programme**

### **CRT Place**

CRT will work with 3 communities to support the development of a Local Place Plans/Action Plans utilising the Place Standard as a key tool for community engagement. Benefits will be the upskilling of local community members, the attraction of new resources into coalfield communities and enhanced community connections. These Plans will form the basis for future CRT investment, allowing the opportunity to identify key assets, community strengths and generate partner funding.

CRT Communities;

- Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire
- Bo'ness, Falkirk
- Glenboig, North Lanarkshire

CRT will continue to support;

- River Leven project which involves community engagement activities and events relating to the Behaviour Change Plan developed in conjunction with the River Leven Connectivity project which is being delivered by a number of partners. This is a long term project.
- Project development support to Cardowan

### **CRT Support**

CRT will provide capacity building support to build the systems, skills, people and resources in all 89 eligible coalfield wards. We manage demand and prioritise support through our tried and tested 'triage' system:

- Level 1: All organisations that request support will receive an appropriate level of advice and/or e-mail support
- Level 2: In those cases where we are best placed to make an impact we will organise a site visit or local 'surgeries' to assess needs and agree a programme of tailored support
- Level 3: Based on an agreed plan, we will provide a variety of one-to-one support to an active caseload of organisations, including assistance with project development, funding strategies, grant applications, action planning, grant management and monitoring, etc.

Our approach involves mentoring, coaching and hands-on support, seeking at every point to transfer knowledge and skills to the coalfield organisation. This will be accompanied by access to relevant information, materials and learning resources.

The one-to-one support is complemented by a series of training workshops and seminars that are open to all coalfield groups and organisations. These will address common issues and techniques (e.g. committee skills, fundraising techniques, the use of ICT, etc.) and provide the opportunity to learn, network, and to share ideas.

Our focus is also be on assisting the groups and organisations to explore opportunities for trading and to develop into social enterprises.

Finding the resources to fund projects and activities that are important in a community is challenging and complex. CRT can provide useful information, advice and training on funding and fundraising to community and voluntary organisations across coalfield communities in Scotland.

## **Network Events**

Over the years we've seen local people and community groups come up with some of the most innovative solutions to local challenges. But we've also seen that sometimes they need a little help unlocking their potential. Constituting a community group, finding funding and recruiting volunteers are some of the common challenges when trying to get locally-driven ideas off the ground.

The Coalfield Community Network is aimed to help community and voluntary groups and those who support them overcome some of those hurdles.

The Coalfields Community Network provides the following to coalfield organisations:

- Access to CRT Connect – a portal to help smaller organizations develop their skills and knowledge through a range of practical tools
- Invitations to the annual Coalfields Network meeting
- An annual CRT circular
- Provide opportunities to share best practice with like- minded organisations
- Access direct support

## **Strategic Interventions**

### **Family Hub Project**

#### **Drongan, Netherthird & Lesmahagow**

The Strategic Intervention we are looking to deliver is to provide a family centred project that will see the most vulnerable families and children from the most deprived areas within East Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire given the chance to be supported in variety of methods.

These communities would be Drongan and Netherthird, East Ayrshire and Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire.

We will work with the local communities to identify families and create a pathway for them within their communities. We will do this by working in partnership with local primary schools, health visitors and social work departments who in return can refer families to the project. There will also be a self-referral route which would provide an open door policy to allow anyone to connect with the staff on this project.

We have already met with potential funders who would match fund this project.

The project would be delivered over five days per week. There will be 2 Family Development Officers based in each location who will have the relevant qualifications for the position. The project will be managed by CRT Regeneration Manager.

We will utilise local community facilities to deliver the project.

The Family Development Officers will produce development plans and activities based around the SHANNARI.

The most important part of this project is identifying the specific needs of the families in the local community to allow us to understand the challenges they face and the areas where they require support.

Within the areas we have identified research has proved that there are no other family projects like this. This has helped us to understand where the gaps in provision are.

There is a need for intervention that focus on children and families mental health and wellbeing. The adverse effects of isolation from quality services has meant lack of motivation, self-confidence, low or no self-aspirations and in some cases obesity and ill health.

The families that we will work with are from deprived backgrounds and many have contrasting experiences at school and home because they are less advantaged. They are more likely to feel a lack of confidence, self-esteem and happiness they become reluctant to socialise with their peers and find joining groups very traumatic. We propose to work with the families individually and in small groups to increase their confidence through various activities that can help build self-confidence and the children will experience a more structured and supervised experience.

Many families become disaffected and develop strong resentments of others due to circumstances out with their control we will through our intense support programme help them to regain the trust and confidence in others, this will reconnect them and help them to feel more involved in their community and develop their social citizenship.

We hope this would also help them feel better about themselves and their future. The staff will develop individual plans with small goals to allow the families to see their own progress this in return will help boost their confidence to join larger groups and make new friends.

We will establish relationships with partners to ensure that the best services is in place for any family presenting at the project in doing this we will leverage more support. By sharing resources we can support people with literacy, careers and health and wellbeing.

This will initially be a one year pilot project and after evaluation would look to continue with delivery.

The project will be evaluated throughout.

## **Outcomes**

- improved mental and physical wellbeing
- increased happiness and satisfaction
- reduced stress and anxiety
- Supported with low cost child care if and when required.
- Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community
- Included and participating in society

## **CRT Engage**

### **Training and Learning**

We have (to date) planned 22 courses for the year, 2 of which have been complete, a mix of accredited, non-accredited and vocational and non-vocational. These include SQA level 3 accredited courses, industry accredited and recognised qualifications as well as awareness raising / soft skills courses.

We calculate to average 10 participants on each course (min 8 / max 12) so forecast approx. 220 individuals will receive support through these programmes ( this excludes the Coalfields Worx Programmes) and we have identified another 8-10 courses which could potentially be delivered from community requests already received, budget depending.

The budget spend for this is to date is approx. £12,000 with some additional costs that are variable i.e. room hires and SQA fees that will still need to be considered.

## **Coalfields Worx**

We propose to deliver a Coalfields Worx programme in Lesmahagow. We have started initial needs analysis and work with the Development Trust, and will look to leverage match funding to deliver the programme. Lesmahagow is an area that we have had little engagement with and we will support the Trust in setting up of the programme through the support from the Regeneration Manager.

The budget will be allocated to supervisor salary and on costs, trainees' salary and on costs, training, PPE, tools and equipment as identified.

## **Sport Works**

This will be delivered in one community.

This programme will specifically target those disengaged with services and with specific support needs and who are deemed to have chaotic lifestyles.

A 10 week course for 8-12 participants will be developed for local unemployed residents aged between 16 and 24. The programme will be tailored for the participants and will include can include sporting activities and health and wellbeing activities. They will also gain accredited and non-accredited qualifications.

## **Connecting Communities**

This project is managed by Coalfields Community Landscape Partnership and is funded through Heritage Lottery Fund with match funding from CRT.

Connecting Communities Project;

- Address the threats to the natural, built and cultural heritage through conservation, enhancement and promotion, capitalising on the area's assets for the benefit of people in the landscape"
- Create opportunities for learning, recreation and wellbeing within the landscape for people with a range of abilities and backgrounds
- Reveal the past lives of the communities, drawing upon their close relationship with the land, thereby connecting people with their heritage and inspiring stewardship
- Equip people with the skills and knowledge to manage their landscape sustainably, building capacity and making it a successful place for residents and visitors alike
- HERITAGE –PEOPLE- COMMUNITY

The projects aims are;

- Building capacity
- Building networks and partnerships
- Levering in funding

## Expenditure

	Total
(Head of Ops, Development Manager, 2 x Community Engagement Officers, Training and Learning Officer, Community Connector	287,842
CCLP Manager	47,939
Game on Manager	47,939
Training Hub receptionist	15,667
Core costs (HR, Finance, training, governance, etc.)	45,000
Office costs (phones, rent, stationery, travel etc.)	80,000
Network	10,293
Training	15,000
Coalfields Worx	50,000
Sport Works	12,000
Strategic Interventions	110,000
CRT Place	13,000
Doon Valley programme/CCLP match	26,824
<b>Total</b>	<b>761,504</b>

## Income

Scottish Government	649,959
CRT- Game On	52,159
CCLP	28,000
Other funding	31,386
<b>Total</b>	<b>761,504</b>

The following outputs will be measured:

<b>Intermediate outcome</b>	<b>Measurable outputs</b>
There will be an increase in the number of individuals living in coalfield communities with qualifications.	No. of training courses delivered via CRT directly, contracted agency or grant
	No. of people qualified via CRT training, contracted agency or grant
	Variety of courses delivered
There will be a stronger network of community and voluntary organisations delivering services and facilities in coalfield communities	No. of regular volunteers engaged in CRT funded activities
	No. of community organisations supported with CRT advice, information, training or funding
	No. of community agencies engaged in Place Plan activities
There will be more people participating in activities that increase physical activity and improve mental well-being	No. of Football 5sessions
	No. of girls only activity sessions
	No. of people being physically active regularly
	No. of regular volunteers involved in CRT funded projects
The level of investment in coalfield communities will increase	Income generated into coalfield communities via CRT support
	No. of physical improvement projects delivered
	Value of physical improvements delivered
More individuals will be involved in community led regeneration activities	No. of people involved in Place Plan activity
People are able to move onto positive destinations because of CRT interventions	No. of jobs created
	No. of people moving onto positive outcomes
	No. of employability projects supported

## National Outcomes and Performance Framework

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust's unique combination of services in Scotland's former mining communities will contribute to Scotland's National Outcomes.

<b>Scottish Government outcomes</b>	<b>CRT high level outcomes</b>	<b>CRT Scotland intermediate outcomes</b>
We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society	Grow the confidence, skills and qualifications of our coalfield population	<p>There will be an increase in the number of individuals living in coalfield communities with qualifications.</p> <p>There will be a stronger network of community and voluntary organisations delivering services and facilities in coalfield communities</p>
We are healthy and active	Improve the health outcomes for our coalfield population and increase the numbers of people taking part in healthy lifestyle activities	There will be more people participating in activities that increase physical activity and improve mental well-being
We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally	Increase the number of people in work and create the conditions for new job opportunities in our communities	The level of financial investment in coalfield communities will increase
We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe		More individuals will be involved in community wealth-building activities
We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone		People are able to move onto positive destinations because of CRT interventions

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2023 10:24 AM  
**To:** [redacted S38 (i)(b) Third Party personal data]@.gov.uk  
**Cc:** ; [redacted S38 (i)(b) Third Party personal data]@.gov.uk; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** CRT Budget Proposals

Hi [redacted S38 (i)(b) Third Party personal data]

Hope you are well.

Further to our meeting please find attached proposed budgets for your consideration.

The Evaluation has now been completed and a copy is attached.

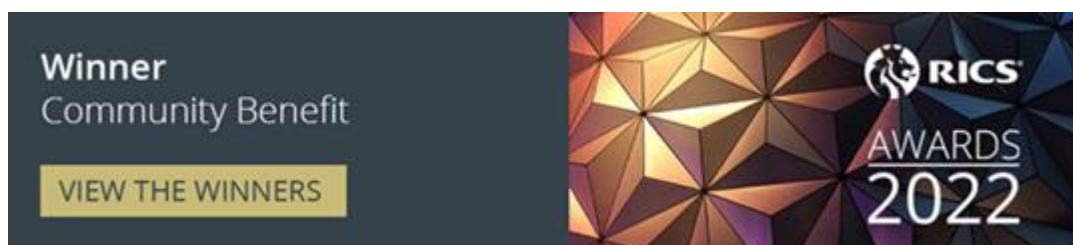
I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910



*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SC039277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in*

*negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

*This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mime*

## **Proposed Budget Reduction**

Scottish Government's proposed budget reduction from £750,000 to £650,000 for 2023/2024 equates to a 13.5% reduction in the funding that ensures we can deliver our activities in Scotland and respond to the current social, economic and environmental challenges which Scotland faces.

### **2022/2023 saw;**

- The continuation of pressure on health services with the Covid pandemic and its impact on the capability to maintain treatments and care for other patients and increasing concern and awareness of the increasing number of people reporting problems with their mental health and with dementia and caring for those suffering with dementia
- The continuing challenge of Climate Change and maintaining Scotland's position as a leader in decarbonised more quickly than any G20 country and out-performing the UK as a whole in delivering long-term reductions.
- The UK economy is now in a deepening recession and forecasters say it will last to 2024. Inflation in the UK continues to be high while the value of the pound has depreciated, pushing up import prices and further fuelling inflation. Scottish businesses across all sectors continue to report widespread inflationary pressures, recruitment difficulties and some supply chain disruption.
- Energy prices soaring. People are seeing a huge rise in the amount they pay for their energy. The UK Government have introduced a range of support in respect of energy bills including a price cap of £3000 for a typical household, and additional support for those on means tested benefits. These measures do not seem enough to offset the grimmest outlook for living standards on record.
- Rising Prices and Poverty. While energy prices have been a significant driver of rising costs households were also hit by the biggest rise in food prices in 45 years.

These, in some cases rapid changes have impacted both on the needs and issues in our communities and on our capability to deliver services as set out in 2022 – 2025 vision and projections. This is particularly true of the investment plans which suffered from fluctuations in the property market, rising materials costs, confidence of investors and a drop in prospective small business and social enterprise investors. The main impact has been on the time scale for property and regeneration projects and its projected income.

### **Working with and Contributing to Scottish Government**

In September 2022 Scottish Government published its Programme for Government 2022 – 2023, setting out the key issues and actions Government will take on and for;

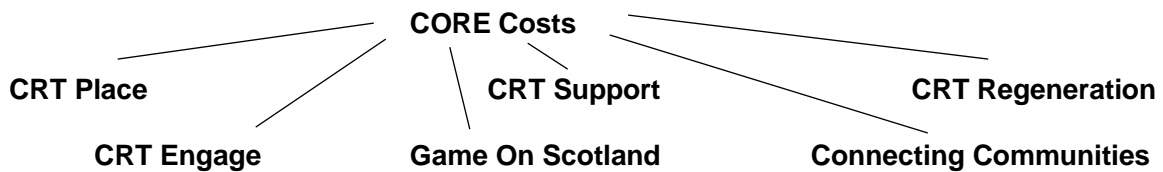
- The Cost Crisis
- A stronger and more resilient Scotland
- Children young people and Scotland's national mission on child poverty
- Excellent public services: recovering strongly from the pandemic
- Transforming our economy
- Tackling the climate emergency
- Restoring our environment
- Supporting our communities

The CRT plan and budget for 2023/2024 must in whatever form contribute to this.

CRT will continue to work collaboratively with national regeneration agencies to ensure there is no duplication, that projects can join up to add value to each other and to ensure there is an exchange of learning from community regeneration projects. We will continue to identify new partners and funding streams to expand all programmes together with new initiatives. At a community level CRT will always seek to work in partnership with local agencies and individuals, encouraging and enabling them to make decisions and find their own solutions,

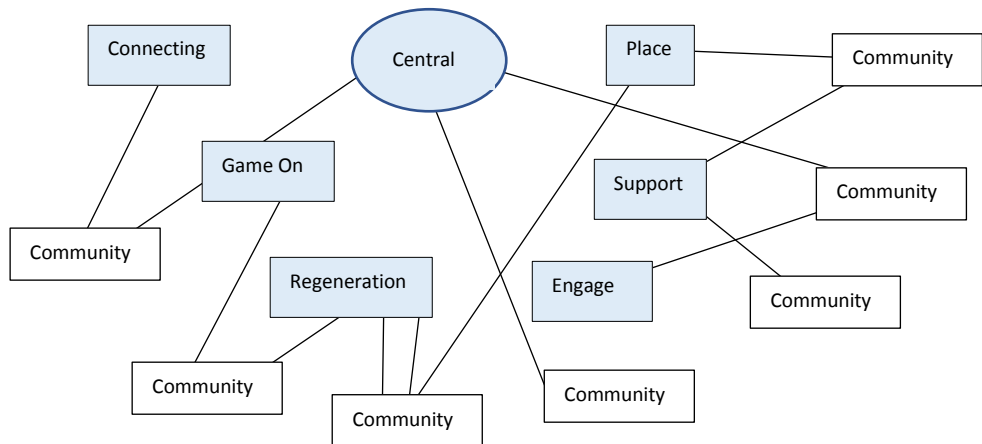
**CRT Budget Centres**

There are 7 programme centres reflected in the budget;

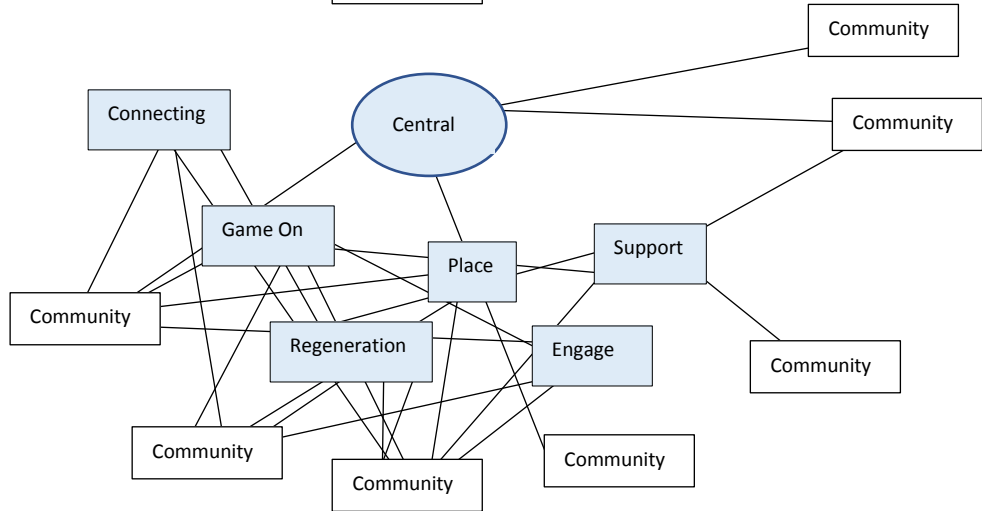


To generate added value and outcomes for our communities particularly in response to managing change for communities we intended generating maximum synergy and benefits by delivering a suit of services in an area rather than spreading the service across the coalfields.

Communities can access services centrally by request.  
Programmes are delivered to a range of communities across the board.



Communities can access services centrally by request.  
Appropriate services are delivered to a few targeted communities creating synergy, added value and benefits.



## 650,000 Budget

The planned activity will have to be reduced to reflect what is possible on this budget line.

Intended	Reductions
<b>CRT Place</b>	
Local Place Plans – 4 new plans	- 2 possible
Continue in developing practice, tools and materials that allow effective use of the Place Standard as a community engagement tool	- National application. Continue as planned
Cardowan Community Meadow	- Important as exemplars of Scottish Government's commitment to diversify land ownership and empower communities to benefit from opportunities presented by nature restoration and climate change. Continue but on reduced resource allocation
River Leven Project	
Support to Drongan in East Ayrshire and Benarty in Fife as Climate Action Towns	
<b>CRT Engage – Training and Learning</b>	
SQA qualifications / Vocational skills courses – 2 per month from Kincardine Training Hub and outreach in communities	- 1 per month and reduced outreach
CRT Worx – roll out across former coalfield communities	- Can only now fund in 1 community
CRT Sport Works. Intended to expand and include mental health issues and confidence building together with the health aspects of the programme	- Deliver previous programme without health and wellbeing addition
In 22/23 we identified 10 new Social Enterprises. A new programme has been developed to assist these and train and support new social entrepreneur contacts seeking help.	- Cut programme
<b>CRT Support</b>	
Community Investment Programme. Over-subscribed year on year	- Reduce the number of organisations we support
Strategic Interventions. Investing in new projects and partnering others. Already exploring a new mental health initiative (choirs in each former coalfield and a national coalfields choir) and warm places energy initiative.	- Limit the new initiatives aimed at current challenges and issues.
CRT Network meetings	- Reduce the number of meetings
<p><b>Game On Scotland</b> is funded directly by CRT UK and <b>Connecting Communities</b> has external investors for part of this project so these programmes through contract continue as is. <b>CRT Regeneration</b> overseas major projects and property development. This is a key area for the future and needs more investment of time by way of current staffing time.</p> <p>Perhaps a more significant impact of this budget it means less focus on target areas and the synergy and benefits from being able to co-ordinate more services in these areas and more advice and information being provided centrally.</p>	

**2023 / 2024 Budget £650,000**

£

<b>CRT Place</b>		
Community Engagement Officer	41,335.00	Reduce intended 4 Place Plans to 2.
Place Plan Development	8,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>49,335.00</b>	Reduce support to Cardowan
Community Meadow and River Leven project.		
<b>CRT Support</b>		
Coalfields Community Investment Programme	25,000.00	Unable to assist the number and range of organisations we currently support.
Targeted Strategic Interventions	90,000.00	
Network	5,134.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>120,134.00</b>	Reduction in Targeted interventions funding would not allow us to explore potential new projects. Reduce number of network meetings
<b>CRT Regeneration</b>		
Development Manager (Regeneration)	53,988.00	Reduce to 1 the number of CRT Worx interventions.
CRT Worx	50,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>103,988.00</b>	
<b>CRT Engage</b>		
Training and Learning Officer	45,983.00	Unable to provide our comprehensive programme of accredited and vocational training.
Capacity Building / Training	12,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>57,983.00</b>	
Cut completely proposed social entrepreneurs programme.		
<b>Game On Scotland</b>		
Development Manager (Game On)	0.00	Main investor CRT UK Cut back CRT Sports Worx
Coach	800.00	
Girls / Boys Football Programme	0.00	
Sports Coaches / Leaders Programme	0.00	
Coalfields Sports Worx	10,000.00	
Coalfields Community Cup / Home Internationals	0.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>10,800.00</b>	
<b>Connecting Communities</b>		
Development manager (CCLP)	5,824.00	Part funded. External investors so these programmes through contract continue
Event Co-ordinator	0.00	
Match Funding	21,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>26,824.00</b>	
<b>CORE Costs</b>		
Head of Operations	85,755.00	P/T Reception funded through CRT UK
Community Engagement Officer	41,335.00	
Community Connector	31,846.00	
P/T Reception	0.00	
Scotland Office Costs	77,000.00	
Quality / Shared Services / HR / Finance	45,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>280,936.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>650,000.00</b>	

## A £700,000 Budget

The planned activity can begin to reflect current needs and issues.

Intended	Now
<b>CRT Place</b>	
Local Place Plans – 4 new plans	- 3 possible
Continue in developing practice, tools and materials that allow effective use of the Place Standard as a community engagement tool	- National application. Continue as planned
Cardowan Community Meadow	- Now able to increase resources to these projects. Specifically organisational and issue based support to the communities and partners involved in each
River Leven Project	
Support to Drongan in East Ayrshire and Benarty in Fife as Climate Action Towns	
<b>CRT Engage – Training and Learning</b>	
SQA qualifications / Vocational skills courses – 2 per month from Kincardine Training Hub and outreach in communities	- Now deliver planned 2 per month and outreach
CRT Worx – roll out across former coalfield communities	- Can only fund in 1 community
CRT Sport Works. Intended to expand and include mental health issues and confidence building together with the health aspects of the programme	- Now add to the previous programme health and wellbeing additional sessional inputs and support
In 22/23 we identified 10 new Social Enterprises. A new programme has been developed to assist these and train and support new social entrepreneur contacts seeking help	- Cut programme
<b>CRT Support</b>	
Community Investment Programme. Over-subscribed year on year	- Now able to support more organisations.
Strategic Interventions. Investing in new projects and partnering others. Already exploring a new mental health initiative (choirs in each former coalfield and a national coalfields choir) and warm places energy initiatives	- Better able to invest in new projects and partnerships and explore / develop the twin challenges of mental health / wellbeing and rising costs
CRT Network meetings	- Reduce the number of meetings
The key impact of this budget is a greater investment in <b>CRT Regeneration</b> via strategic interventions budget to enable the delivery of major regeneration projects and property developments. This is the area where external developments over 2022 / 2023 slowed progress.	
Funding at this level allows new work specifically aimed at the current challenges; energy costs, rising prices, environment and climate, health and wellbeing.	

**2023 / 2024 Budget £700.000**

£

<b>CRT Place</b>		
Community Engagement Officer	41,335.00	Now in a position to deliver 3 local place plans
Place Plan Development	10,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>51,335.00</b>	
Can refine tools developed for national application through field testing		
<b>CRT Support</b>		
Coalfields Community Investment Programme	35,000.00	The additional budget increases are necessary both to make progress on the major programmes and
Targeted Strategic Interventions	110,000.00	
Network	10,293.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>155,293.00</b>	
to target and prioritise key communities and to deliver projects on the current challenges of mental health and wellbeing and community ownership and empowerment and environmental projects.		
<b>CRT Regeneration</b>		
Development Manager (Regeneration)	53,988.00	At this level of investment CRT Worx still cannot be rolled out
CRT Worx	50,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>103,988.00</b>	
<b>CRT Engage</b>		
Training and Learning Officer	50,824.00	Deliver the whole suit of SQA accredited and vocational training courses we have developed
Capacity Building / Training	15,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>65,824.00</b>	
<b>Game On Scotland</b>		
Development Manager (Game On)	0.00	Main investor CRT UK
Coach	800.00	
Girls / Boys Football Programme	0.00	
Sports Coaches / Leaders Programme	0.00	
Coalfields Sports Worx	12,000.00	
Coalfields Community Cup / Home Internationals	0.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>12,800.00</b>	
<b>Connecting Communities</b>		
Development manager (CCLP)	5,824.00	Part funded. External investors so these programmes through contract continue
Event Co-ordinator	0.00	
Match Funding	21,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>26,824.00</b>	
<b>CORE Costs</b>		
Head of Operations	85,755.00	P/T Reception funded through CRT UK
Community Engagement Officer	41,335.00	
Community Connector	31,846.00	
P/T Reception	0.00	
Scotland Office Costs	80,000.00	
Quality / Shared Services / HR / Finance	45,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>283,936.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>700,000.00</b>	

## A £750,000 Budget

Full programme of activity maximising synergy of multi service regeneration.

Intended	Now
<b>CRT Place</b>	
Local Place Plans – 4 new plans	- 3 new plans but with time allocated for assistance to deliver projects from the plans and 1 at least associated with area regeneration initiative
Continue in developing practice, tools and materials that allow effective use of the Place Standard as a community engagement tool	- National application. Continue as planned
Cardowan Community Meadow	- All projects linked to current SG priorities can now be worked on
River Leven Project	
Drongan in East Ayrshire and Benarty in Fife as Climate Action Towns	
<b>CRT Engage – Training and Learning</b>	
SQA qualifications / Vocational skills courses – 2 per month from Kincardine Training Hub and outreach in communities	- Now deliver planned 2 per month and outreach
CRT Worx – roll out across former coalfield communities	- Programme can be rolled out - A new Worx programme for those young people finding it most difficult to find employment will be developed for trial. It would be intended to run this in target areas
CRT Sport Works. Intended to expand and include mental health issues and confidence building together with the health aspects of the programme	- The new programme can be delivered and rolled out
In 22/23 we identified 10 new Social Enterprises. A new programme has been developed to assist these and train and support new social entrepreneur contacts seeking help	- With this budget this can be delivered. Not only will this contribute through new enterprises to the local economy it will be delivered in an area where a major regeneration and property development is targeted assisting CRT in income generation
<b>CRT Support</b>	
Community Investment Programme. Over-subscribed year on year	- Now able to support more organisations.
Strategic Interventions. Investing in new projects and partnering others. Already exploring a new mental health initiative (choirs in each former coalfield and a national coalfields choir) and warm places energy initiatives	- Focused on SG priorities as outlined in <i>Programme for Government</i> - Also supporting in co-ordinated way CRT income generation and area regeneration
CRT Network meetings	- Full cycle of meetings
This budget allows the full range of services and support which will be co-ordinated in a more systematic way both to all former coalfield communities on request and deployed in combination to have maximum impact in target communities.	

**2023 / 2024 Budget £750.000**

£

<b>CRT Place</b>		
Community Engagement Officer	41,335.00	New local place plans some linked to area regeneration and property development
Place Plan Development	13,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>54,335.00</b>	
New projects linked to CRT and SG priorities in current social and economic climate		
<b>CRT Support</b>		
Coalfields Community Investment Programme	40,000.00	Operating in synergy with regeneration and place strategy
Targeted Strategic Interventions	115,000.00	
Network	10,293.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>165,293.00</b>	
<b>CRT Regeneration</b>		
Development Manager (Regeneration)	53,988.00	New employment ready programme linked to regeneration
CRT Worx	80,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>133,988.00</b>	
<b>CRT Engage</b>		
Training and Learning Officer	50,824.00	Full suite of programmes delivered
Capacity Building / Training	17,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>67,824.00</b>	
Social enterprise programme again linked to are regeneration. Mental health and well being initiatives		
<b>Game On Scotland</b>		
Development Manager (Game On)	0.00	Main investor CRT UK
Coach	800.00	
Girls / Boys Football Programme	0.00	
Sports Coaches / Leaders Programme	0.00	
Coalfields Sports Worx	17,000.00	
Coalfields Community Cup / Home Internationals	0.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>17,800.00</b>	
<b>Connecting Communities</b>		
Development manager (CCLP)	5,824.00	Part funded. External investors so these programmes through contract continue
Event Co-ordinator	0.00	
Match Funding	21,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>26,824.00</b>	
<b>CORE Costs</b>		
Head of Operations	85,755.00	
Community Engagement Officer	41,335.00	
Community Connector	31,846.00	
P/T Reception	0.00	
Scotland Office Costs	80,000.00	
Quality / Shared Services / HR / Finance	45,000.00	
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>283,936.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>750,000.00</b>	



# Engaging and Regenerating Left Behind Communities - Coalfields Regeneration Trust in Scotland Evaluation

A Report for Coalfields Regeneration Trust in  
Scotland



*Social Research*

---



*Service Design & Innovation*

---



*Strategy & Collaboration*

---



*Evaluation Support*

---



*Social Impact Measurement*

---

February 2023



# Index/

<b>1: Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2: The Coalfields Regeneration Trust Programmes in Scotland</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3: Strategic Context</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4: Regenerating Communities</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5: A Route out of Poverty: Skills and Employability</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>6: Tackling Inequality: Health and Wellbeing</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>7: Stakeholder Views</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>8: Conclusion</b>	<b>50</b>

# 1: Introduction

This report describes the activity and impact of seven of the key programmes of the CRT in Scotland.

## Coalfields Regeneration Trust

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) was established as an independent charity in 1999 in response to the recommendations of the Coalfields Task Force. Its main aim is to support the ex-mining communities and create opportunities for people living in these communities across the UK.

The CRT in Scotland is a branch of the charity that supports defined coalfield areas in Scotland.

The CRT supports the building of capacity of communities in ex-mining areas to eradicate poverty, address inequalities and create sustainable growth and wealth. Key themes for CRT are health and wellbeing, employment and skills.

The CRT further plays a key role in representing coalfield communities, bringing in additional funding into coalfield communities and bringing communities, statutory agencies and the business community together.

More specifically, the CRT's objectives are:

1. Increase the number of people in work and create the conditions for new job opportunities in our communities.
2. Grow the confidence, skills and qualifications of the coalfield population.
3. Improve the health outcomes for the coalfield population and increase the numbers of people taking part in healthy lifestyle activities.

## Deprivation in coalfield areas

Research<sup>1 2 3 4 5</sup> over the years has evidenced that ex-mining communities are among the most

deprived areas in the country, suffering from poverty, unemployment, health inequalities, low educational attainment and a lagging economy.

Some findings of the recent research on Scottish coalfield areas<sup>6</sup> include:

- The population of the coalfield intervention areas is growing, reaching a population of 468,000 in 2018.
- Of the 610 Data Zones in coalfield intervention areas, 189 are among Scotland's most deprived 20%. 31% of coalfield neighbourhoods are now in the most deprived 20%, showing an increase on previous editions of the SIMD.
- There remains significant and concentrated deprivation, particularly in Clackmannanshire, East Ayrshire, Fife, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire.
- Former coalmining communities continue to face severe challenges across education, income and employment.
- Several areas are in a worse comparative position for income- and health-related deprivation, though there has been a relative improvement in terms of geographic accessibility.
- Many former coalmining communities are in a worse relative position for educational disadvantage.
- Educational attainment of school leavers has been increasing in recent years but is still below the Scottish average.

Fothergill, S., Gore, T, Sheffield Hallam University's Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, 2014

<sup>3</sup> The State of the Coalfields, Economic and social conditions in the mining communities in England, Scotland and Wales, Beatty, C., Fothergill, S., Gore, T, Sheffield Hallam University's Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, 2019

<sup>4</sup> The Scottish Coalfields in 2020, Social Value Lab, 2020

<sup>5</sup> Understanding the Impact of Benefit Changes in Scotland's Mining Communities, Social Value Lab, 2021

<sup>6</sup> The Scottish Coalfields in 2020, Social Value Lab, 2020

<sup>1</sup> Analysis of Coalfield Area Deprivation, Social Value Lab, 2013; The Scottish Coalfields in 2020, Social Value Lab, 2020

<sup>2</sup> The State of the Coalfields, Economic and social conditions in the mining communities in England, Scotland and Wales, Fodden, M., [Continues over]

- Coalfield communities have lower rates of participation in education, employment or training among 16-19 year olds and fewer 17-21 year olds enrolling in higher education.
  - There has been some growth in the business base in recent years, but there are more micro organisations and fewer large employers located in the coalfield areas.
  - Despite some growth in jobs, coalfield areas still have significantly fewer jobs (287 jobs per 1,000 people, compared to 467 per 1,000 for Scotland)
  - Overall the coalfields still have fewer jobs in higher-skill, knowledge intensive industries compared to the rest of Scotland.
- 

The Covid-19 pandemic that hit the UK in March 2020 has had a profound impact on coalfield areas. A recent study<sup>7</sup> found that:

- Covid infection rates in coalfield areas were higher.
  - Covid mortality rates were higher in coalfield areas because of an older and less healthy population.
  - Despite the furlough support provided, unemployment in coalfield areas surged, as did the number of in-work benefit claims increased.
  - With the re-opening of the economy, the coalfield areas resumed their place lagging behind the more affluent areas in the UK.
  - The current labour shortages that are reported have not affected the long-standing job shortfalls in coalfield areas.
- 

<sup>7</sup> Beyond the pandemic, Older industrial Britain in the wake of the crisis, Beatty C., Fothergill C., Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, Sheffield Hallam University, November 202. The scope of the research is wider than the coalfield areas, it defines 'older industrial Britain' as older industrial towns, former coalfields and main regional cities.

The report summarises the situation as:

---

*"Older industrial Britain entered the pandemic lagging behind on a wide range of social and economic indicators, was then hit hard during the pandemic and is now emerging still lagging behind."*

---

## Research Objectives

The overall aim of the evaluation is to understand and evidence the impact of the CRT on communities and people in coalfield areas in Scotland.

The detailed objectives of the study are to:

- Assess the portfolio of selected programmes against to identify where
  - programmes have delivered successfully; where there have been challenges;
  - Provide evidence of the impact of the programmes on communities and individual citizens;
  - Make suggestions for improvements to the programmes in the future;
  - Suggest a potential framework for future monitoring and reporting of portfolio activity.
- 

## The Scope of this Study

This evaluation focusses on seven specific programmes of the CRT in Scotland:

- Coalfields Community Futures
  - East Ayrshire Connecting Communities and Initiatives
  - Coalfields Community Investment Programme
  - Coalfield Learning
  - Grow and Learn in Nature Award
  - Coalfields Worx
  - Game On Scotland
-

The scope of this study is the CRT in Scotland activity in the last three years: 2019/20 – 2022/23.

## Research Method

For this evaluation we have applied a mixed method, consisting of:

- 
- Review of CRT data on the programmes included in this study.
- 
- Semi-structured interviews with 14 external key stakeholders and 2 internal key stakeholders.
- 
- Semi-structured interview with 7 Community Futures stakeholders.
- 
- Semi-structured interviews with 5 Community Connections stakeholders.
- 

- 
- Semi-structured interviews with 6 people involved in Growing and Learn in Nature (GLiN).
- 
- Semi-structured interviews with 3 Coalfields Worx deliverers.
- 
- Semi-structured interviews with 8 CRT Game On stakeholders, including coaches (4), Youth Workers (3) and a Police Scotland officer (1).
- 
- Focus group discussions with 40 young people participating in CRT Game On Scotland.
- 
- Community Investment survey (26 responses).
- 
- Coalfields Learning Programme survey (14 responses).
- 
- CRT Game On survey (27 responses).
-

## 2: The Coalfields Regeneration Trust Programmes in Scotland

This Section provides a summary of each of the programme evaluated in this report.

### Coalfields Community Futures

Coalfields Community Futures is a place-based community planning programme. Its key aim is to support the development of areas that have not benefitted substantially from external funding from the CRT and other funding partners.

Using the Scottish Government's Place Standard Tool, a nationally recognised public consultation method, and other tools, the programme enables community groups and residents to identify local needs and priorities, capitalise on existing local assets, and prepare a Local Place Plan with the participation of local people. Local Place Plans contain:

- A vision for the future of the community.
- Views on the community now.
- The identification of the main strategies for community development.
- Priorities for action.

Throughout the process, CRT provides tailored capacity building support, working with local residents and groups to establish skills and working structures and secure external funding for agreed projects.

### East Ayrshire Connecting Communities and Initiatives

Connecting Communities aims to build an enterprise culture and develop skills that will ultimately create new services and jobs.

Community Connections is funded by and a key contributor to the Coalfield Community Landscape Partnership (CCLP) that distributes over £6m funding from East Ayrshire Council, the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and others to improve the cultural, natural and industrial heritage of the area.

CRT has established an office and created a Development Manager post in East Ayrshire who will lead the project.

The project aims to coordinate activities, develop connections and build the confidence and skills of the local community to progress the heritage and tourism aspects of their Local Place Plans and create sustainable jobs and boost the local economy.

### Coalfields Community Investment Programme

The Coalfields Community Investment Programme (CIP) builds the capacity of small voluntary organisations and charities in coalfields areas, using relatively small financial awards to allow groups to continue to improve their offering to local communities.

Funding workshops and an annual networking event are used to publicise the programme.

Applicants are supported throughout the application process with advice and signposting to other funders and similar projects. Support remains available for the project funding period and beyond (up to a one year maximum), allowing maximum flexibility should circumstances change.

### Coalfield Learning

The CRT facilitates numerous learning opportunities for residents of former coalfields communities, including the Grow and Learn in Nature programme, Coalfield Worx, and SVQ training through Game on Scotland, as well as knowledge sharing between third sector organisations.

In addition to the learning embedded in these programmes (which are discussed individually in this report), the CRT hosted a range of masterclasses and training sessions through their Learning Programme. The courses included:

- 
- First Aid;
- 
- Mental Health First Aid;
- 
- Food Hygiene;
- 
- British Sign Language;
- 
- GOALS training; and
- 
- Volunteer / retail training.
- 

## Grow and Learn in Nature Award

The Grow and Learn in Nature (GLiN) programme operates in partnership with the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society (RCHS). Participants develop a range of horticultural skills including:

- 
- Plant care;
- 
- Soil health;
- 
- Propagation;
- 
- Greenhouse maintenance; and
- 
- Nursery care and transplanting.
- 

Some participants also took part in painting, building and repurposing materials for gardens (e.g. using old tyres as planters) and pickling, jarring and selling produce.

The programme consisted of a minimum of 30 hours of activities, and included 5 online masterclasses delivered by specialists, 7 online networking events, and a meet-up day and awards ceremony at the conclusion of the programme. Participants were encouraged to keep a portfolio of their work as a requirement of the award.

The programme is adaptable and can be completed independently or as a group. RCHS and the CRT supported four groups across Scotland in the period covered by this study, including one working in partnership with the dementia support group STAND and one with Kickstarter for young people.

## Coalfields Worx

Coalfields Worx is an employment programme targeted at young people living in former

## Project Activity

Table 2.1 provides an overview of the project activity of the programmes included in this study

coalfield communities that are particularly affected by low employment.

The programme creates a realistic work environment for young people, who undertake paid training across a range of environmental maintenance jobs in outdoor spaces. They receive ongoing support from the programme facilitators in finding further employment, education or training.

## Game On Scotland

Game On Scotland is the CRT's Sport for Change programme. It offers young people aged between 11-17 the opportunity to play football on weekday evenings between 7-9pm.

Operating in some of the most deprived former coalfields areas, Game On provides young people living in these communities with a fun and engaging diversionary activity through which they can build skills and develop habits that will benefit them in reaching positive destinations.

Game On is delivered in two strands:

- 
- **Football Sives:** a weekly football programme for young people aged 11-17, delivered in 11 venues in, Clackmannanshire, East Ayrshire and Fife. The programme culminates in the annual CRT Community Cup and games against the England and Wales winners.
- 
- **Game On Girls and Game On Active:** a weekly programme for children of primary 3-7 focused on being active and introducing children to the game. It is delivered in 5 venues in Clackmannanshire, Fife and Stirling. Some sessions are for girls only (Game-on Girls).
- 

Game On sessions are run in partnership with youth work services in the local area, facilitating closer links between young people and youth services, and in some areas the use of a minibus to collect and deliver participants. In some areas the local police is also engaged with the sessions.

**TABLE 2.1: PROJECT ACTIVITY**

	Total 2019-22	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
<b>Community Futures</b>				
• Communities worked with/LPPs produced	5 communities		5 communities	
<b>East Ayrshire Connecting Communities</b>				
• Number of organisations supported	£406,255	£386,546	£19,709	-
• Number of network events	17	10	7	-
• Number of people attended network events	610	450	160	-
• Amount of funding levered in	36	30	6	
<b>Coalfields Community Investment Programme</b>				
• Number of supported organisations	79	18	41	20
• Amount of grant funding disbursed	£202,387	£47,774	£96,282	£58,331
<b>Coalfields Learning</b>				
• Number of beneficiaries	280	50	3	227
• Number of accreditations	49	10	-	39
<b>Grow and Learn in Nature</b>				
• Number of participants	58	58	-	-
<b>Coalfields Worx</b>				
• Number of participants	15	15	-	-
<b>Game On Scotland</b>				
• Number of participants	752	752	-	-

## 3: Strategic Context

This Section provides an overview of the strategic context the CRT in Scotland is operating in. It shows how the programme contributes to the Scottish Government's policy and strategy objectives.

### General

All projects, programmes and activities of the CRT in Scotland make a significant contribution to the main policy and strategies of the Scottish Government.

### National Performance Framework<sup>8</sup>

The National Performance Framework is the overarching strategy of the Scottish Government that sets out how it will create a more successful country; give opportunities to all people; increase peoples' wellbeing; create sustainable and inclusive growth and reduce inequalities.

In order to achieve this, the Scottish Government has developed a set of 11 National Outcomes, closely linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The CRT in Scotland makes a significant contribution towards the following National Outcomes:

- 
- We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
- 
- We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.
- 
- We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.
- 
- We are healthy and active.
- 
- We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.
- 
- Children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential.
- 

---

<sup>8</sup> [National Performance Framework | National Performance Framework](#)

### A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Programme for Government 2021-22<sup>9</sup>

This strategic document sets out a programme of action for the Scottish Government for 2021/22, and in particular it shows how Scotland will recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. The strategy has six key themes. The CRT in Scotland contributes to three of them:

- 
- 2. Land Of Opportunity: supporting young people and promoting a fairer and more equal society.
- 
- 4. An Economy That Works For All Of Scotland's People And Place: putting sustainability, wellbeing and fair work at the heart of our economic transformation.
- 
- 5. Living Better: supporting thriving, resilient and diverse communities.
- 

### A stronger and more resilient Scotland: the Programme for Government 2022 to 2023<sup>10</sup>

The current programme for government is written against the backdrop of the cost of living crisis and rising inflation and sets out how the Scottish Government is addressing this.

For coalfield communities, the activity of the CRT in Scotland contributes to a number of key policy ambitions:

- 
- Supporting Our Communities: support action that will help people through the cost of living crisis and boost the resilience of people and communities for the longer term.
- 
- A Stronger & More Resilient Scotland: mitigate the impacts of the cost crisis and support people and businesses throughout Scotland.
- 

---

<sup>9</sup> [A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Programme for Government 2021-22 \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> [A Stronger & More Resilient Scotland: The Programme for Government 2022-23 \(moraychamber.co.uk\)](#)

## Regeneration

### National Planning Framework<sup>11</sup>

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out the long-term plan for development and infrastructure in Scotland.

The plan defines spatial principles to support this:

- Sustainable places, with reduced emissions and an improved biodiversity.
- Liveable places, where people live better, healthier lives; and
- Productive places, with a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

The CRT in Scotland's programmes make a contribution to achieving these spatial principles.

### The Community Empowerment Act<sup>12</sup>

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 came into force in 2015 and aims to change the balance of power between communities and the public sector. It gives community organisations more rights and a stronger voice. The act sets out how the public sector, service providers and communities can work better together to achieve outcomes and tackling inequalities. It also gives Local Outcomes Improvement Plans (LOIP) and Locality Plans a statutory basis.

The CRT in Scotland helps coalfield communities to establish partnerships with local public sector organisations and provides input to the Locality Plans.

### Achieving a Sustainable Future<sup>13</sup>

The Scottish Government's regeneration strategy aims to make Scotland a country where 'the most disadvantaged communities are supported and where all places are sustainable and promote well-being.'

The CRT in Scotland activity contributes to a range of outcomes identified in this strategy:

<sup>11</sup> [National Planning Framework 4: Revised Draft \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

<sup>12</sup> [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

<sup>13</sup> [Achieving a Sustainable Future: Regeneration Strategy \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

### Economically Sustainable Communities:

- A well trained workforce whose skills meet economic needs.
- People have access to the learning and development opportunities that they need and the right support is in place to help people to work.
- Sustainable employment and reducing welfare dependency.

### Socially Sustainable Communities

- Delivery is focussed on the needs of people.
- Communities are involved in designing and delivering the services that affect them.
- Strong and effective community networks are in place.
- Communities have a positive identity and future aspirations.
- People are empowered to improve their area and maximise local assets.
- People have good physical and mental health.
- Communities are fair and inclusive, where all have a voice and can participate.
- Sustainable employment to tackle worklessness.

### Place Principle<sup>14</sup>

The Scottish Government has introduced the Place principle to stimulate collaboration between sectors and encourage community involvement.

The CRT in Scotland is applying this place principle to coalfield communities by working with bespoke communities to make connections, draw up a plan, develop the capacity of community organisations and get in the resources to implement the plan.

The Scottish Government has developed the Place Standard tool to help communities and others to assess the quality of a place. The CRT in Scotland helps communities to use this tool and produce a

<sup>14</sup> [Place Principle: introduction - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

clear and evidenced picture of the needs of their community.

### **A New Future for Scotland's Town Centres<sup>15</sup>**

This review of the Town Centre Action Plan set out further measures towards the focus on wellbeing, inclusive development, climate change, health and inequalities and worked out the emerging concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

The CRT in Scotland helps developing local communities in disadvantaged ex-mining communities to bring back local programmes and services.

### **Community Wealth Building<sup>16</sup>**

The Scottish Government has adopted the internationally recognised Community Wealth Building (CWB) approach to economic development.

CWB focuses on the development of local 'anchor' organisations to tackle long standing systematic challenges and structural inequalities.

It aims to transform the local and regional economic systems to make sure local communities and people have a greater stake in the creation and spending of wealth from the economy. It focuses on more and better jobs, business growth, community-owned assets and shorter supply chains.

CBW pilots are rolled out across five local authority areas, including coalfield areas such as Clackmannanshire and Fife.

## **Skills and Employment**

### **Delivering Economic Prosperity<sup>17</sup>**

The Scottish Government's economic strategy provides the roadmap to a wellbeing economy with good quality jobs and sustainable businesses.

Key priorities are:

- 
- to ensure that people have the skills they need at every stage of life to have rewarding careers and meet the demands of an ever-changing economy and society.
  - reorient the economy towards wellbeing and fair work, to deliver higher rates of employment and wage growth, to significantly reduce structural poverty, particularly child poverty, and improve health, cultural and social outcomes for disadvantaged families and communities.
- 

The work that the CRT in Scotland does in disadvantaged communities and upskilling people contributes to these priorities.

### **Fair Work Action Plan: Becoming a Leading Fair Work Nation by 2025<sup>18</sup>**

This strategic document sets out how the Scottish Government will increase the payment of the Scottish Living Wage, reduce the gender and disability pay gap and improve labour market outcomes for people in disadvantaged communities.

The CRT in Scotland supports these aims by upskilling people, creating employment and developing the local economy in disadvantaged former mining communities.

## **Health and wellbeing**

### **National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework<sup>19</sup>**

This document sets out how integrated health and social care services should work towards achieving nine key outcomes of the people in Scotland. The CRT in Scotland's programmes contribute to two of these outcomes:

- 
- People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.
  - Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.
- 

---

<sup>15</sup> [A New Future for Scotland's Town Centres \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

<sup>16</sup> [Community wealth building - Cities and regions - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

<sup>17</sup> [Delivering Economic Prosperity \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

---

<sup>18</sup> [Fair Work Action Plan: Becoming a leading Fair Work Nation by 2025 \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

<sup>19</sup> [National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes: A framework for improving the planning and delivery of integrated health and social care services \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

### **Best Start, Bright Futures, Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26<sup>20</sup>**

In 2017 Child Poverty Act became law, which sets out the Scottish Government's targets to reduce the child poverty by 2030. The act is accompanied by action plans that provides the detail of implementing the measures to achieve this.

The latest action plan include a number of measures to which the CRT in Scotland makes a contribution:

- 
- Supporting parents into work and to sustain their employment.

---

  - Tackling the financial barriers parents face in entering the labour market.

---

---

<sup>20</sup> [Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026 \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0044/04_2022/Best-Start-Bright-Futures-Tackling-Child-Poverty-Delivery-Plan-2022-2026.pdf)

## 4: Regenerating Communities

This Section explores the impact CRT in Scotland has made on regeneration coalfield communities.

Although every CRT programme and activity contributes to the regeneration and development of communities across coalfield areas, there are a number of programmes particularly focused on community regeneration: Community Futures, East Ayrshire Community Connections and the Community Investment Programme.

### 1. Community Futures

The CRT in Scotland has worked with five communities in coalfields areas under the Community Futures programme: Gorebridge (Midlothian), Kelty (Fife), Crossgate (Fife), Coalsnaughton & Devonside (Clackmannanshire) and Clackmannan (Clackmannanshire).

The CRT has worked with community anchor organisations in these communities and provided strategic and practical support to produce a Local Place Plan.

#### Bringing coalfield communities together

The CRT has played a pivotal role in bringing the community together around their needs and the plans for the future.

The CRT staff have facilitated and supported steering groups that developed the Local Place Plans for the areas. This helped the steering groups making progress towards producing an action plan and keep them focused on the needs of the community.

---

*"[CRT staff member] was brilliant at explaining things (particularly jargon) and great in meetings: calm, firm, clear, engaging people and getting information from them."*

*"There was always a CRT staff member to explain things."*

---

The CRT have acted as an advocate for the interest of coalfields communities. Many community anchor organisations and development trusts the CRT worked with are completely run by volunteers, who sometimes lack the skills and sometimes lack the time to represent the interest of their community to the fullest.

The CRT spoke on their behalf with local government and other statutory agencies and built relationships with other community and voluntary organisations active in the area.

---

*"They also got other groups involved, so we had the Community Council, and the Town Hall Trust and just interested people to take part and suggest some questions or topics that local people might want to comment on."*

*"There are now so many different people engaged, not just the same group of people all the time."*

---

To facilitate networking and learning CRT in Scotland has developed Community Connect, an online platform where Community Futures coalfields communities can meet, share experiences, learning and best practice and find information.

Initially conceived as a way to maintain and develop links between local communities during the COVID pandemic, Community Connect has grown to continue strengthening the connections between coalfield communities in North and East Ayrshire, the West of Scotland and Fife.

#### Facilitating community engagement

The CRT has helped anchor community organisations to engage with their communities and get their views on their needs and wishes.

The CRT has helped communities by designing and analysing surveys and organising and facilitating consultation events.

---

*"CRT would come along and they would construct the engagement consultation process. And then they would set up all the meetings and facilitate them."*

*"The idea of having extra staff to help with community engagement and the Local Place Plan was fantastic."*

---

The CRT have used the Place Standard Tool for community engagement. Although not all interviewees were equally enthusiastic about the

tool, most agreed that having a tried and tested template to guide discussions with communities leading to an evidence base that was endorsed by the Scottish Government and recognised by local authorities was a huge benefit.

---

*“As a community council, we were sold on it, which is why it was great. It was a nice, standardised, consistent way of collecting data. It was recognised as a tool meant we could be more comparable with other areas and we could look across and see how we were doing. It just felt more evidence based, more methodical.”*

---

CRT introduced the Virtual Engagement Room for community meetings and consultation, in particular to give community members the opportunity to participate and engage during the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to create an engaging online tool to attract different people to the discussions after the pandemic. Interviewees saw this as a useful additional tool, in particular to reach younger populations, although many said they would prefer face-to-face contact.

---

*“They set it all up for us and shared the link as widely as possible. The response we got was really good.”*

*“There’s more engagement, you know, since you’re having cups of tea and coffee and blathering and stuff the live events are much better than online.”*

---

### Evidencing need

The CRT has played a vital role in the five coalfield areas in conducting research and gathering data on the needs of the community. These were then used to evidence the Local Place Plan and to support funding applications.

---

*“Having evidence to back up funding applications is really useful, previously we were going in blind.”*

*“This gives us the evidence of just how interested people are in this.”*

*“Right now I can go for funding because we’re on the right track.”*

---

### Developing Local Place Plans

The CRT has facilitated the development of Local Place Plans in the five coalfield communities.

The CRT has supported this process by bringing communities together, gathering and analysing data, collecting and making sense of community consultation and by writing and printing the plans.

The CRT was also helpful in guiding and managing the process, ensuring that the plans were developed on time.

---

*“Because they know all the legalities and what and how they’ve developed since the first one was done, so it’s more formal.”*

*“A safety net to know what to do next. I’ve never done a Local Place Plan before.”*

*“They’re filling a massive gap in my knowledge”*

---

### The CRT legacy

When asked the counterfactual, interviewees mentioned a range of things they believed would not have happened if the CRT was not involved:

- 
- There would be limited community engagement.
  - Communities would not be able to track progress on the action plan.
  - There would not be a robust evidence of the community needs, only national statistics and anecdotal evidence.
- 

---

*“We need to be able to track what we’ve achieved and show the community that what they’ve asked for is being carried out.”*

---

From the interviews the main legacy of the Community Futures programme for the five participating communities was identified:

- 
- Volunteers in community organisations have gained a range of new skills and experiences, which will help them in further developing and implementing their plans.
  - Community organisations are now much better in engaging their community. Community engagement is now more embedded in the culture of the Community Futures organisations.
-

- Community organisations and local government have a much better idea about the needs and wishes of their community.
- Community organisations believe it will be easier to attract external funding for the projects identified in the action plans.

*"It has given us some tools to battle with."*

### --- CASE STUDY --- The Coalsnaughton & Devonside Community Futures Story

Coalsnaughton and Devonside Community Council (CDCC) started working with the CRT on their Local Place Plan in 2019. This was the community council's second experience of creating an action plan, the previous one was done with the help of a consultant who was hired using external funding. CDCC were aware that their action plan needed updating, but did not have access to the same funding anymore.

*"Our previous LPP had involved an online survey and conversations with people in the community, so it'd been robust enough but we just felt it lacked some extra rigour."*

#### Partnership with CRT

CDCC were made aware of the CRT by Public Health Scotland. From the community council's perspective, the fact that the CRT team had experience creating Local Place Plans in similar local communities gave them confidence that they would be an effective and reliable partner for this task.

Furthermore, some members of the community council had experience using the Place Standard Tool, which the CRT would be using to help create the action plan. They could see that their own methodologies aligned with those of the CRT, and that the additional tools and resources that the CRT brought to the process would enhance what they already had in place.

#### Expectations

From their previous experience of creating a Local Place Plan, CDCC had a clear idea of what they would like to achieve through this process, and were aware of some of the challenges

involved. In particular, they wanted support with community engagement, rigorous data analysis, and being able to track and clearly demonstrate their progress.

The CDCC members recognised that as a group, they were not sufficiently diverse to be representative of the community as a whole. They wanted to ensure they received input from a wide segment of the community, including demographics that they did not typically interact with, such as young people, young parents, and people whose experiences and priorities in the community might differ from their own.

*"It's difficult to extrapolate from our experience and say, 'Oh this is what the what everybody is interested in.'"*

An additional challenge, once people had been reached, was making sure the tools are accessible and that people are able to provide feedback in full. Previously, CDCC had experienced significant drop-off when using the Place Standard Tool booklet, because completing it took a long time and the content was not appropriately engaging. CDCC felt that the Virtual Engagement Room that the CRT offered would be an innovative way of bringing the Place Standard Tool to life and increasing engagement.

*"It just brought the booklet alive and made it much more accessible. And I understand there's still issues with drop off at certain points, but it just makes it more accessible, we should have greater retrieval accuracy."*

For their previous Local Place Plan, CDCC gathered data by conducting an online survey and having face-to-face conversations with community members. Though this helped them to develop an evidence base, they felt that their analysis lacked rigour. Using the Place Standard Tool with the CRT's guidance would provide them with a systematic, consistent method to collect data in a way that was recognised across Scotland. CDCC hoped that this would make it easier for them to identify areas of need and demonstrate to the community that these were being addressed.

#### The Process

The CRT team stepped forward to provide support across every aspect of developing the Local Place Plan. They helped plan a community engagement event which resulted in 150

members of the community attending. The CRT created the marketing materials for the event, such as leaflets and banners, and re-formatted the Place Standard Tool booklet to make it more accessible and easier to fill in. CDCC received Place Standard forms from 50 people who attended the event, and more from others who had not been able to attend the event in person, via the Virtual Engagement Room.

CDCC reflected that in comparison to previous events, this one brought the most people through the door. To generate the same level of interest and create the high-quality marketing materials they used would have required an investment of time and money that CDCC could not have committed without the support from the CRT.

---

*"What's been helpful is by having these engagement sessions, we're raising visibility of the whole process. And we've got people to sign up at each event."*

---

Having carried out the community consultation, the CRT helped CDCC to analyse the data and formulate an action plan based on the evidence they had. At this point, CDCC brought in a steering team, who helped to identify the key themes from the consultation and prioritise them according to the scoring system that the Place Standard Tool uses. The engagement events had helped to raise the profile of the work being done to create the action plan and gave people an opportunity to express their interest and willingness to be involved. As a result, the steering group was made up of a broader cross-section of the Coalsnaughton and Devonside community than previous community groups instigated by the community council.

---

*"So we've got this email distribution list [from the engagement events] that we can go to in the future and say, 'By the way there's this opportunity, do you want to be a part of this group?' So that's helping as well, just to link us up with people we don't usually see."*

---

Although at the time of this study, CDCC had not completed the analysis, they saw themes beginning to emerge that aligned with their understanding of the perspectives of their community. They interpreted this as a positive reflection of their efficacy as a community council, noting that the consultation verified their assumptions with robust evidence, and added a level of detail that otherwise would have been

missed. Importantly, the scoring system meant that they would be able to 'prioritise within priorities', and to clearly demonstrate areas of need.

---

*"If something had really been new, we should be slightly concerned about that, because we should have our finger on the pulse to a certain extent."*

---

As with organising the engagement events, a community council made up of volunteers would not have had the time to analyse more than 50 feedback booklets, so the contributions of the CRT team and the steering group were invaluable in this phase of the process.

---

*"There's no way I as a volunteer could have sat down and analysed 50 Place Standard tools, and produced a report and you know, and then moved on to the next event."*

---

### The Result

As a result of this process, CDCC were able to create a Local Place Plan that laid out clear strategies to address the community's top priorities. The detailed feedback gathered from the community provided them with clear focus points, which they were confident met the needs of their community. Suggestions and solutions had also been drawn from the evidence gathered at the engagement events, meaning that the actions CDCC took forward were guided by the community. On the whole, CDCC felt that they were better able to serve their community thanks to the methodology and support the CRT provided.

In addition to laying out their plans for the future, CDCC saw that the document they produced also gave them a baseline of evidence from which they could: provide robust evidence of the progress they had made towards each goal; compare the needs of the community to previous years and identify and address changes (particularly important given unpredictable events we have recently experienced such as the COVID-19 pandemic and cost-of-living crisis); and compare the needs of their community to elsewhere, identifying where successful projects and actions could be adapted for Coalsnaughton & Devonside.

---

*"We're able to point at certain things that we've managed, and say 'We've done that.'"*

---

### Community Futures' Legacy

Without the support of the CRT, CDCC would have been working from an out-of-date plan that did not accurately reflect the present needs of their community. The time and money required to carry out a community consultation, analyse the evidence, and build a new action plan would have made it, in their view, impossible to achieve alone.

---

*"I think without CRT, we would not have been able to produce the Local Place Plan."*

---

Thanks to the Community Futures programme, CDCC have an up-to-date action plan, and furthermore have gained skills and experience that they will continue to use. Everyone on the Council is familiar with using the Place Standard Tool, and they intend to embed it into their work, carrying out annual community consultations to help them stay on track and provide evidence of the progress made.

CDCC have raised the profile of the work they are doing in the community, and consequently have raised their ambitions. They have more confidence that they are able to focus their energy and efforts on achieving outcomes that are important to their community.

Having well-defined and well-evidenced goals also means that CDCC are looking into applying for funding from the Local Authority – something that they previously had not considered, because the task was too daunting and they were not equipped to make a compelling application. They anticipate that this will help them take on bigger projects and make a more significant impact in Coalsnaughton & Devonside.

---

*"If CRT hadn't been able to offer this, our ambition would have been greatly curtailed."*

---

An important goal for CDCC was being able to tell their story to the community, demonstrating in a clear and engaging way what they have achieved, and what their ambitions for the local area are. The Community Futures programme has allowed them to do that firstly by constructing a clear story of the Coalsnaughton & Devonside community, and secondly by creating more and stronger channels of communication through

which CDCC can reach people living in their community.

---

*"It's really about going out to the community and telling that story about: 'Five years ago, you were worried about X, and in the intervening time we've done Y to help improve the situation.'"*

---

## --- CASE STUDY --- The Gorebridge Community Futures Story

Gorebridge has struggled as a former coalfields community. With the closure of the high school in the 1990s, the village lost the community facilities hosted by the school, and struggled to keep the library and leisure centre open as the only remaining local resources for residents. Groups operating in Gorebridge, such as the Gorebridge Development Trust, the Community Council, and grassroots organisations have ambitions to improve their area, but have faced numerous challenges delivering on these ambitions. The Gorebridge community needed support to work more collaboratively and efficiently and turn their motivation into demonstrable improvements in their community.

### Partnership with the CRT

Coalfields Regeneration Trust first started working in Gorebridge in 2014. Since then, they have been a continued presence in the community. The CRT has provided small grants to Gorebridge Development Trust, worked alongside the Community Council to acquire a Community Asset Transfer, and developed Gorebridge's Local Action Plan in 2014, among other things. Recently, the CRT worked with the Community Council and the development trust to create a new Local Place Plan.

### The expectations

The Gorebridge community knew that the CRT would be the right people to help them create their action plan, as their previous experiences working with the CRT had been extremely positive. The CRT team were well integrated in community groups, and members of the Community Council and Development Trust felt that they had a strong understanding of Gorebridge as a community. This was important, as Gorebridge had past experience of being let

down by external organisations with preconceived ideas about what was needed in the area and little understanding of what was important to the people who live there.

---

*"Their involvement in the community has been a continuing, long-running thing, and that's important because they know us and we know them."*

---

The CRT's expertise in community consultation, their tools and methods, and the knowledge they brought from creating action plans in similar communities were all seen as crucial to increasing the capacity of Gorebridge's local groups to deliver an insightful, relevant and achievable action plan.

The local groups recognised that some parts of the community were not being engaged with fully, and were determined to change their approach in this respect. With the CRT's help, they were hoping to increase their reach, and gather evidence from a wider range of people on a wider range of topics. They felt that while they could predict, based on previous consultations, how the public felt about things like transport, green spaces, and the needs of young people, they wanted to give residents an opportunity to contribute their views on other issues such as the preservation of local buildings, and solutions to green energy.

An important consideration for Gorebridge was that numerous organisations operated in the community, but with limited individual capacity and funding. Members of the Community Council, the development trust, and other local groups often held voluntary positions, and their full-time work restricted the amount of time they could dedicate to development projects. The third sector community in Gorebridge hoped that by working collaboratively with the CRT through this process, they would be able to increase their efficiency, maximise their resources, and consequently plan and deliver bigger projects that would make a significant difference to the local people.

### The process

The CRT put together a steering group to create the Local Place Plan, consisting of a core team and a wider group of contributors. The steering group was supported by a staff member of the CRT. Having someone in a dedicated role helped to keep the rest of the committee motivated and organised, and they found they were able to quickly progress beyond the initial planning

stage – something they had struggled to do in the past due to the challenge of co-ordinating a large group of people with irregular availability.

---

*"We had struggled to get out of the starting box – most of us are volunteers and also working full time, so having someone who was dedicated really gave us that follow through."*

---

Having the CRT staff member on hand to walk the committee through the consultation tools, and to explain their use to the public once the consultation process was underway, was seen as an important part of encouraging people to engage.

The steering group launched the Virtual Engagement Room and hosted community engagement events, where attendees could discuss the action plan with members of the steering group and fill in surveys in person.

They received input from a much wider segment of the community than had been reached in previous consultation efforts, which was largely attributed to the flyer carried out by CRT staff and local volunteers. Steering group members estimated that almost every house in the community had received a leaflet informing them of how to provide their input online or at events, and the link for the Virtual Engagement Room had been distributed as widely as possible too.

---

*"So many different people engaged with this, it wasn't just the same group all the time."*

*"They delivered thousands and thousands of leaflets."*

---

*"The last [consultation] day we had was a huge success. It was really, really busy."*

---

Apart from the Place Standard tool, the Gorebridge steering group used a variety of additional consultation tools, including the 'Gorebridge Wishes', and a number of mapping events which gave members of the community the chance to provide in-depth responses to what they would like to see happen in their community, and where. The tools were interactive and engaging, enabling the group to effectively gather evidence that accurately reflected the community's needs and interests.

In addition to gathering views from the public, the consultation events were an opportunity for

local groups to come together and showcase what they were working on and what they had achieved so far. The community were able to see what action had been taken in their area, and reflect on how their needs had been responded to in the past. At the same time, these events strengthened connections between different organisations, helping them to move forward with more effective partnership working.

---

*"The latest one we had, a few weeks ago, was really well attended. The community groups all came to show off what they'd been doing."*

---

All members of the steering group reflected that working with the CRT had been a positive experience. The knowledge and enthusiasm of the CRT staff members galvanised both the steering group and members of the public: they felt informed, listened to, and excited by the opportunity to have their voice heard.

---

*"They have completely driven this forward, but have also been very open to suggestions that we have made."*

*"I had no idea what to expect - it's been absolutely amazing; they really know their stuff."*

---

## The Result

At the time of speaking to us, Gorebridge Development Trust and the Community Council were in the process of analysing the feedback they had received from the community consultation. At this stage, they were already able to see a number of achievements that they felt would not have been possible without the CRT.

Ambitions for projects within the community were yet to be defined, but the steering group and local organisations had been able to make plans and set aims for their own work, outlining step by step how they would go about delivering the action plan. The enthusiasm and perseverance of the CRT team was a crucial aspect of keeping everyone motivated and on track; breaking the process down into tasks that could be delegated successfully helped the different groups work together effectively.

---

*"It's a lot more than just the Local Place Plan. It's about those relationships being built up, and it's about trust."*

---

---

*"Getting all our partners round the table and going - OK, what needs doing and who's working on what? It really does focus you."*

---

From conversations that took place during the community events and the initial analysis that has been done, the steering group anticipate that the evidence gathered will give them a greater depth of insight into the community's needs and priorities than they had before.

---

*"I certainly would expect that we'll learn new things - because when you're a group in the community, you tend to just do your own bit. But there are a lot of different ideas, and I'll be interested to see what comes through."*

*"There's the 'same old', you know - potholes and all that - and then there's quite a lot of new stuff as well."*

---

This was partly achieved thanks to the collaborative working between community groups. By using open-ended consultation tools and collecting evidence together, groups were introduced to ideas that were outside of their usual focus. This led to considerations about how different priorities could be incorporated into collective projects, for instance prioritising green energy when making plans to improve public transport.

---

*"I would say, without their involvement it wouldn't have happened."*

---

## The Community Futures Legacy

In addition to the practical support they provided, the CRT's input resulted in a number of long-term outcomes for the groups and individuals involved.

Most significantly, members of the steering group spoke about what they had learned from the process. The CRT provided an example of how to organise events and meetings with large number of attendees professionally and seamlessly. This was previously regarded as a daunting - and in some cases impossible - task, but having achieved so much with CRT's support, individuals felt renewed motivation and confidence.

Community groups also felt better informed of what other groups in Gorebridge were doing, and how to collaborate effectively with them in the

future. The CRT set a precedent for greater communication and collaboration, which all groups were resolved to carry forward as an integral part of their operation.

Included in this was a clearer understanding of the kind of support available from the CRT. Large established groups and smaller groups alike found that they could increase their capacity and ambitions, thanks to support from the CRT that they were previously unaware of.

---

*"They don't just dump you once they've been and gone, they've been stable people you can go to."*

---

The partnerships that have been developed through the CRT's work extend beyond the organisations involved in the Local Place Plan. Thanks to the encouragement of CRT staff, members of Gorebridge football club, staff at Gorebridge's new community hub The Beacon, and others have come forward to access support.

Small organisations that gained experience managing and delivering projects are able to make more robust funding applications thanks to their previous successes.

---

*"Being a new group, it's very, very difficult to get a grant because you've not got any history. This was our lever to start doing other things."*

---

Across the community as a whole, there is a renewed sense of hope and optimism regarding what can be achieved in Gorebridge. With The Beacon open as a community hub, Gorebridge residents have somewhere they can go to have their voices heard, and third sector organisations are better equipped to respond to the needs of their community.

The Local Place Plan has provided a clear template through which the steering committee can on one hand create a clear plan, and on the other hand demonstrate clear progress to their community. Members of the steering group anticipate that this will help them to maintain higher levels of engagement in the future, as people will see that their input has really made a difference.

---

*"They'll be reading things they recognise, and that will be translated into more engagement in the future."*

---

The CRT's continued presence in the community was seen as a useful tool for the future. While members of the steering group reported that they had collectively and individually learnt a great deal from the process of creating the new Local Place Plan, they felt that future support was needed to see through the delivery of the plan. In particular, people mentioned that those on the committee would not have the expertise or time to train new people in the methods and tools they had used and intended to keep using for future community consultations and planning.

---

*"We still need to learn some lessons, and we would still need some support to do this independently."*

---

## 2. Connecting Communities

Connecting Communities is part of the Coalfield Community Landscape Partnership (CCLP). Funded with £2.2m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, it delivers 22 community-led natural heritage, built heritage and cultural heritage projects to regenerate the East Ayrshire landscape and communities.

Creating Connections has worked with 36 community organisations, organised 17 networking events attended by 610 people and levered in £406,255 in additional funding for these organisations and communities.

### Building capacity

Connecting Communities has supported local community organisations in East Ayrshire to build their capacity to take on bigger projects and manage and grow their organisation.

The CRT staff have helped with establishing new community organisations and provided assistance to existing organisations with setting up legal structures, improving governance arrangements, project development, business planning and submitting funding applications.

---

*"If people are interested in starting up a group that would help them develop that capacity, get extra funding from other sources that we couldn't as a Council or as landscape partnership get."*

---

The CRT staff have also signposted local people to national CRT programmes (e.g. Learning Programme, Coalfields Community Investment programme).

---

*"[An advantage is] to have the national backing of CRT's activities and other programmes, which can then be so easily brought into the area. In the past, CRT has been spending money and doing other activities in other coalfields, and maybe not so much down in East Ayrshire. So in a way it has sort of filled that gap from our point of view."*

---

Other capacity building providers in the area, such as the Local Authority's Vibrant Communities programme, are overstretched and cannot meet demand. The capacity building activities provided by CRT are filling the widening gaps in capacity building support.

---

*"It's activity in this area [capacity building] that maybe traditionally in the past councils or other groups have been able to do, but just don't have the capacity anymore to do that."*

---

### Building networks and partnerships

Connecting Communities has brought organisations across East Ayrshire and beyond together. Historically, and in part due to competition for funding, local community organisations have not always been inclined towards collaboration or working across communities.

---

*"In order for the communities to survive, they're going to have to start working together a lot better, and sharing the resources a lot better, rather than keeping them within their pockets."*

---

However, primarily through a series of networking events, Connecting Communities has begun to tackle this issue by creating opportunities for organisations to work together and provide benefit to each other. It has also given local organisations the chance to network with key stakeholders, including local councillors, development trusts and existing local projects.

---

*"It's getting people to think big, getting them to think how they connect, what opportunities they have within their communities."*

---

---

*"[At networking events] they're looking at whether something didn't work for a group, and then figuring out well, why did that not work? And how can we do things differently? And what advice would you give, so they're actually supporting one another, rather than us saying 'this is how you should be doing this'."*

---

Closer collaboration between local organisations fostered by Connecting Communities has also provided additional benefits for the CCLP, allowing it to establish new relationships and work with new partners that would otherwise be ineligible for support (e.g. because they are cross-boundary projects):

---

*"Not only are we working in the coalfields area that we're supposed to be working , [we've] been establishing contacts, spreading the reach further out of the*

*area, so that we can help communities that are [ineligible for] the funding through the Heritage Lottery. We can help them achieve their goals using the Connecting Communities project."*

---

### Levering in funding

Connecting Communities has been instrumental in helping local organisations secure additional funding. As well as raising awareness about sources of funding available (through networking events and direct engagement with organisations), CRT staff have helped a number of organisations to become more varied or creative in their sources of funding – for example, supporting organisations to access a ‘cocktail’ of funding for particular projects.

*"Doing these networking events, and highlighting other strands of Scottish Government funding and other opportunities for funding out there, and bringing them in and getting people to listen to ideas, it opens up the opportunity to get an extra funding."*

---

As mentioned, Connecting Communities is also building capacity around making funding applications, providing advice and guidance on form-filling, writing proposals and how to structure applications to ensure maximum benefit.

*"Having somebody say no, do it this way, present it this way, this is how we do that, now you can draw down money - [Connecting Communities] was able to give them that assistance as well."*

---

This aspect of the support provided by Connecting Communities also has knock-on benefits for the CCLP. Bids for CCLP projects required match funding, but not being able to use other lottery funding to do this made it difficult for some projects to become eligible despite CCLP interest in developing them. Connecting Communities has been able to work with many of these organisations to secure alternative sources of funding and grow these projects.

*"If people are interested in starting up a group [Connecting Communities] would help them develop that capacity and get*

*extra funding from other sources that we couldn't as a Council or as Landscape Partnership get."*

---

In total the CRT has helped 23 other organisations to lever in £406,255

### Boosting confidence to deliver

In tandem with building capacity and leveraging in additional funding, Connecting Communities has boosted the confidence of local groups to be able to do these things for themselves in future. This ranges from having the confidence to fill in forms correctly or engage with new partners to feeling better able to take on increasingly larger-scale projects.

*"It's building up a level of confidence locally to be able to take on something and deliver it and manage it."*

*"The networking has been the biggest thing for building up confidence."*

---

Taken together, the support provided by Connecting Communities around capacity building, funding, and growing confidence puts local organisations in a stronger position to deliver well-managed, sustainable projects going forward. This outcome aligns with the aims of the CCLP and has the potential to deliver further value with the advent of new windfarm money coming into East Ayrshire soon.

### Going forward

Interviewees mentioned a range of focal points for the programme in the near future, including:

- The development of sustainable social enterprises and community businesses to build on the development of culture, heritage and tourism.
  - Support with community asset acquiring and managing.
  - Support to access the future windfarm funding.
  - Creation of employment opportunities.
  - Linking heritage, culture and tourism to tackle the wider socio-economic issues in the area (e.g. fuel poverty, transport, health inequalities).
-

## Community Connections' legacy

Although the Connecting Communities programme still runs until 2025, a number of legacies of the programme are emerging:

- Increased collaboration and partnership working across communities in East Ayrshire.
- New projects have emerged, often in previously overlooked areas of heritage, working with underrepresented groups or that cut across several issues – not only improving the heritage/culture offer but addressing, for example, poverty, employability or health inequalities.
- A new platform for tackling some of the significant and often interconnected issues experienced unevenly by former coalfield areas.

---

*"It's building their confidence up again, to maybe look at going out and thinking about social enterprise, thinking about how they could establish some sort of business from it. And so without having the support of CRT, these people wouldn't be doing what they're doing."*

*"It's getting people to talk about the heritage and also not feeling excluded from society anymore – being more included. And these people sometimes feel that they're overlooked, because of the stuff that they've had to face in the past or their addictions. And we've noticed an improvement in their health and wellbeing."*

*"If there were more third sector organisations like them in the area that we could work with, I think we would, start hammering home what's needed and how it's important it is community-led, and it's from the grassroots up, rather than the trickle down that we've got from the council."*

---

### --- CASE STUDY --- The Lugar Church

Lugar is a small village in East Ayrshire with few community spaces. Keen to provide a solution to this, members of the Lugar Parish Church were interested in utilising the space they had in the

church building and developing it into a community hub. They formed plans to transform the existing space and had initially been successful in sourcing funding to begin this process.

However, prior to work commencing a survey of the building uncovered more structural issues than had been anticipated and the scale of the work required increased significantly.

## Funding challenges

The amount of funding required was proving challenging for the church committee, both in the overall amount needed to cover the cost of the work and in the frequent requirement of funders to have match funding in place.

After attending a Connecting Communities network meeting hosted in the nearby town of Cumnock, committee members were introduced to CRT staff and learned more about the support that they could provide. They built up a strong relationship with CRT, meeting regularly to talk about needs for the project.

CRT staff were able to offer guidance on what sources of funding were available, how to apply and even provided practical support in helping the church to complete funding application forms.

---

*"[CRT] did help us with any forms that we had, any we were stuck with [they] could help us and it was [CRT's] input that got us the grant... It really was such a relief when somebody else could help us because to a certain extent we were floundering."*

---

The guidance and support provided through Connecting Communities has contributed towards Lugar Parish Church being successful in securing a significant amount of additional funding and helping them to realise their goals. Work achieved as a result of this additional funding includes new flooring, wiring, windows, and heating for the church, as well as the creation of a newly renovated café space, a computer suite, and an accessible toilet.

---

*"It was a lot of money and because as a small area and quite a deprived area, I think we would have still been fundraising today."*

---

## Networking

The value of Connecting Communities to Lugar Church goes beyond the additional funding it has helped them to secure. Attending Connecting Communities meetings and hearing about other work that was going on through CRT staff enabled the church to make connections with local groups. One such encounter with representatives from another CCLP project – Lost Villages in East Ayrshire – led to a collaboration between both organisations to run a series of events in the church inviting local people to come in and share their stories about life in the mining communities.

---

*“It helped us expand and meet other people face to face that had interests in the areas but probably without the CRT hosting these events, nothing really would have come of it because you were emailing people and it’s not the same. So, I think it really helped us establish links within the network that we probably would never have had.”*

---

CRT staff also helped to promote activities in the church, even bringing people along to events. They also provided direct support with social media, further expanding the church’s reach in the local community.

---

*“[On Facebook] Folk were seeing what was going on, and it was amazing how the connection was made. And folk got in touch with us.”*

---

## Looking ahead

Support received through Connecting Communities has helped to get the church into a strong position from which to deliver additional benefits to the community.

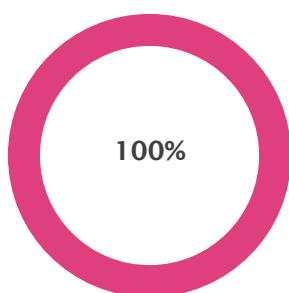
Plans are in place to provide employment opportunities through the new care space and they are looking at the possibility of operating a soup kitchen for the local community. The church is continuing to explore opportunities for collaboration and linking in with other projects in the area, including the development (through the CCLP) of new walking routes in the area and the creation of a heritage centre within the church building.

### 3. Coalfields Community Investment Programme

The Coalfields Community Investment Programme (CIP) awarded £202,387 in grant funding to 79 community organisations in the period of this study.

The support from the CRT and the delivery of this programme was generally very well received. All respondents agreed the support from the programme met or exceeded their expectations.

Figure 4.1: CRT support met expectations



Respondents' experience of the training and workshop element of the programme is presented in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2: Experience of training and workshops

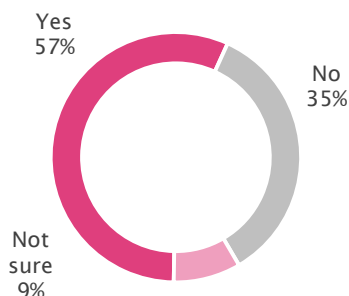


Most participants found that the workshops and training gave them opportunities to share their own knowledge (80%) and benefit from the knowledge and experience of other organisations (70%). They were able to contribute, share ideas and form lasting partnerships with each other as a result of this programme (80%). Most also reported building the skills and capacity of their entire team thanks to the training they received (70%).

*"They gave us a really good starting point and there to assist us if required."*

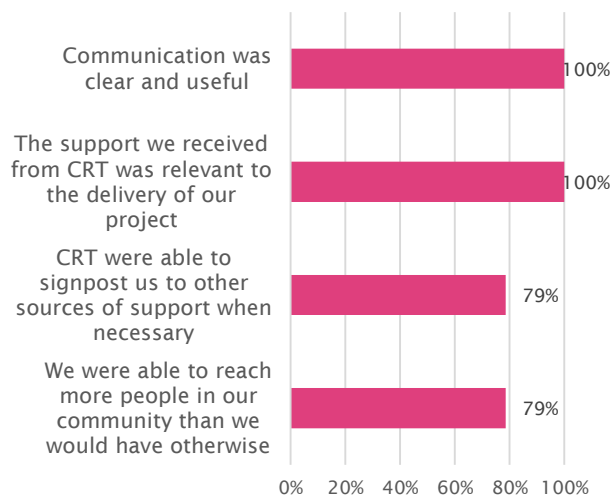
Potentially two-thirds (66%) of participating organisations received hands-on support. Over half (57%) of the participating organisations reported receiving hands-on support from the CRT over the course of this programme, with a further 9% of respondents unsure whether their organisation had or not, as shown in Figure 4.3.

Figure 4.3: Received hands-on support from CRT



Their experience of this support is presented below, in Figure 4.4.

Figure 4.4: Experience of practical support from CRT



All respondents agreed that the support was useful and relevant to their project, and was communicated clearly. Most organisations found that the CRT were able to helpfully signpost in cases where they couldn't provide support themselves, and that the organisation were able to reach more of their community thanks to the CRT's support (79%).

Comments indicate that those who received practical support found it extremely useful, and that interactions with the CRT team were positive and encouraging. The CRT's approach was notably different from other similar types of support in the bespoke and personal nature of the support received, which had the effect of building organisations' collective confidence as well as skills and capacity.

---

*"The support and assistance through visits, calls and advice was amazing. Huge interest and encouragement was shown from officers of CRT for our project and our group."*

*"I was able to speak with an advisor which was most helpful."*

*"The support gave us the confidence that our organisation was valuable to the community and an outside organisation (CRT) could appreciate that and recognise that we needed support and then provide the support quickly to meet our needs."*

*"The whole process was much more personal than with any other funding application. I felt guided and encouraged in a way that is not always the case."*

---

Comments regarding improvements that could be made to the delivery of practical support were primarily focused on communication around grant funding and reimbursements:

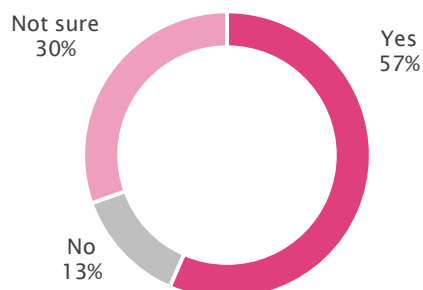
---

*"Reimbursement of costs could have been swifter. There needs to be more transparency in the budget agreed and on the spending from which grant facility it is coming from."*

---

Figure 4.5 shows that the CIP programme has changed how organisations will deliver future projects. Over half (57%) are confident that their processes will be different in the future, with a further 30% as yet unsure.

**Figure 4.5: CRT support changed how organisations will deliver future projects**



Some of the things respondents commented on regarding how their processes would be different in the future included:

- 
- Having a clearer idea of what funders required from them.

---

  - Making more efficient funding requests.

---

  - Identifying where the resources are needed, and monitoring how they are being allocated.

---

  - More detailed and specific planning.

---

  - Reduced stress and anxiety around making funding applications.

---

  - Involving the community more.

---

  - More detailed and specific outlines of funding sources and uses.

---

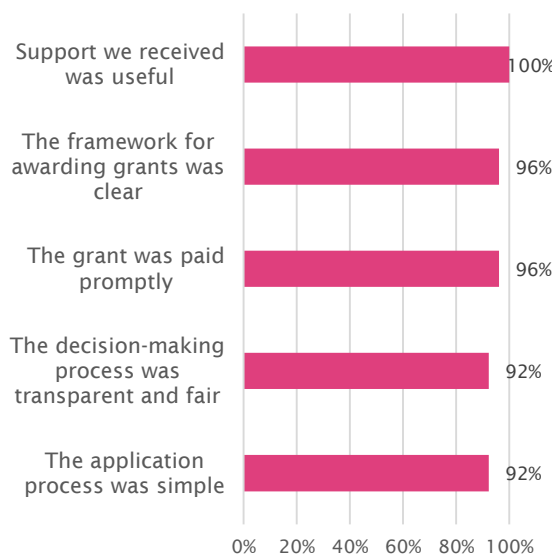
---

*"They gave 100% encouragement and committed the initial funds required to start on the development and kept in contact with us throughout the development to completion. They gave me and our group the confidence to ask for funding and advised of other organisations who could and did help. It is with the confidence and belief in our group, that they instilled in us that we feel able to take on other projects. What we have been able to develop has given this whole community a better feel for our village, brought people together and instilled pride in our history."*

---

All respondents found the support they received through the CIP useful and relevant to the application process. In particular, applicants reported that the framework for awarding grants was clear, and they were paid promptly (96%). Over 90% of applicants also indicated that the process was simple, and decision making fair and transparent.

Figure 4.6: Process of applying for grant



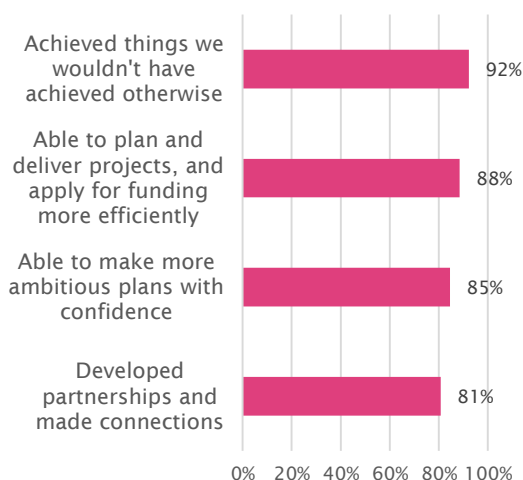
Comments suggest that the programme facilitators responded quickly and clearly to queries, which is likely to have contributed to the transparency and simplicity of the process for participating organisations.

*"Any questions that I had regarding the application process were dealt with immediately."*

*"The process was efficient and easy to work through."*

The vast majority of successful grant applicants reported significant impact on their organisation as presented in Figure 4.7.

Figure 4.7: Impact of the programme on organisation



Almost all (92%) organisations were able to achieve more thanks to the grant awarded. Comments indicate that some organisations expanded their original project, while others took on entirely new plans.

As well as benefitting from the funding itself, organisations reported a range of improved practices, including better efficiency and planning (88%), more confidence and increased ambitions (85%), and new or strengthened relationships with partner organisations and funders (81%).

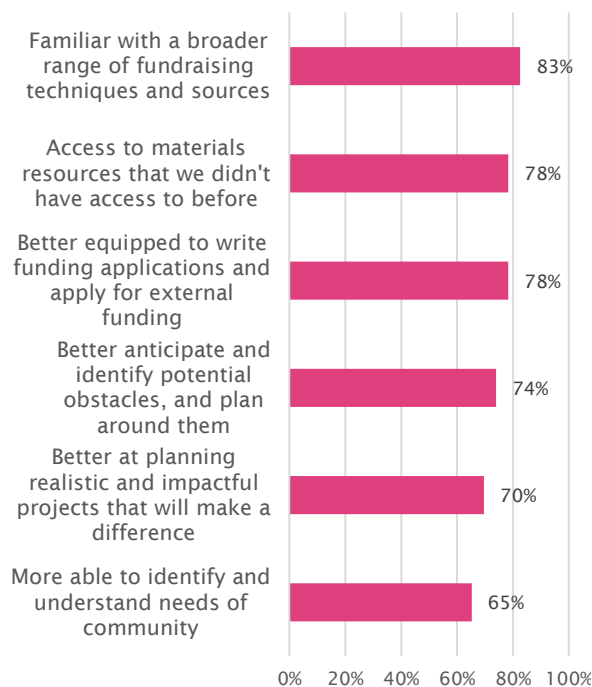
*"The grant has enabled us to expand the organisation in ways that otherwise would not have been possible."*

*"We developed a new additional project thanks to the grant funding."*

*"A beautiful child mining memorial garden and heritage site has been created thanks to the grant funding from CRT to get the development started. Their support and ongoing encouragement for that project and their advice on other funding organisations to help us was fruitful and saw the site completed. That site has just won a Best in Scotland award by RHS. They have now linked us with Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society for major development of another area in our village that will achieve another award."*

Figure 4.8 displays what applicant organisations have learned from the process.

**Figure 4.8: What organisations learnt through the programme**

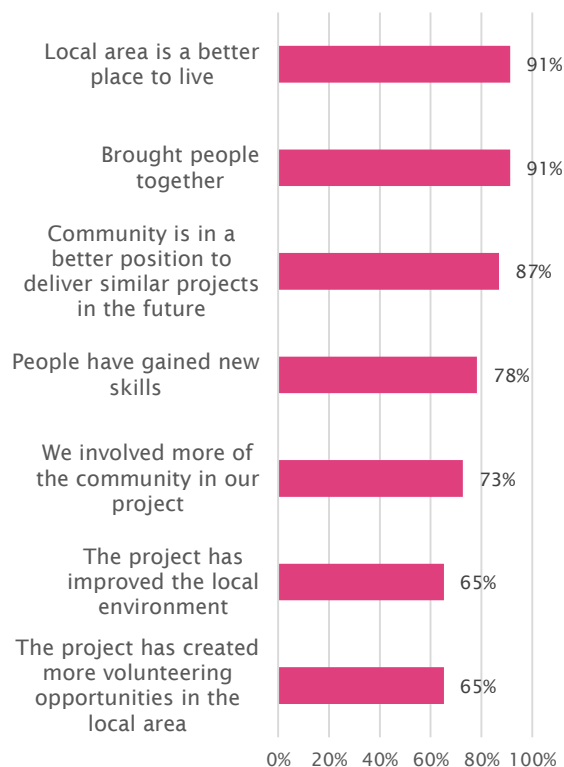


Specific learning that organisations gained includes, most significantly, familiarity with a broader range of techniques and sources for acquiring funding (83%). Over three-quarters of organisations found that they had greater access to useful materials and resources (78%), and were better equipped to write funding applications in general (78%). For most respondents, this came alongside better planning that takes into account what would be most impactful (70%), and what obstacles were likely to arise (74%).

*"We are not frightened to fill in funding applications and not anxious in the project we are doing now."*

CIP applicants reflected that the programme has had a significant impact on the communities in which they work, as exhibited in Figure 4.9.

**Figure 4.9: Impact of programme on community**



Over 90% reported that their area was a nicer place to live thanks to what they achieved through this programme. A significant majority also reported lasting impacts on the community, including bringing people together (91%), being better placed to carry out similar projects in the future (87%) and gaining new skills (78%). For roughly two-thirds of the communities involved, the CIP resulted in improvements to their local environment, and increased opportunities for people to volunteer locally.

*"Due to the CRT investment we have been able to strengthen our links with the local community associations."*

*"Had CRT support and encouragement not been there for us, our group may not have been as strong today. They helped us establish, through their grant, film-making and continual encouragement, a strong and very much supported group in this community, now working with our children from school groups, to make this a better place in which to live. "*

Comments from the survey emphasise the inclusive, wrap-around, and engaging approach that the CRT took with this programme as key

features of its success in bringing together local people and strengthening community bonds.

When asked where their project would be had they not had support from the CRT, common themes that arose included:

- 
- The project would have taken longer, and some would not be completed yet.
- 
- The organisation would have folded.
- 
- Future planning would be more difficult and limited.
- 
- Organisations would not be as well connected to their community.
- 
- The community and service users would not have benefited as much as they have.
- 
- The organisation's value within the community would not be as significant or as well recognised (internally and externally).
-

# 5: A Route out of Poverty: Skills and Employability

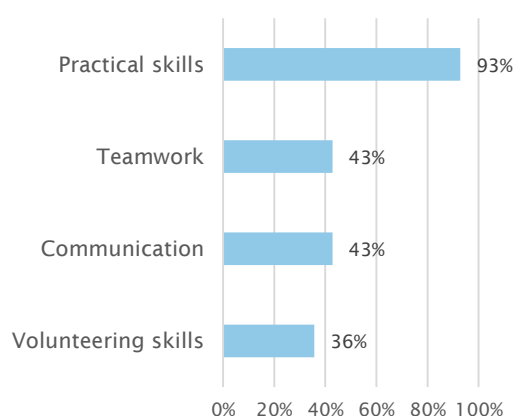
This Section provides a summary of the programmes through which communities and individuals gained skills and made progress towards or gained employment.

## 4. Coalfields Learning Programme

In the period 2019-22 there were 280 people living in the coalfield area that took part in the Coalfields Learning Programme, of whom 49 gained an accredited qualification.

All participants reported learning new skills from the training, as shown in Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Skills gained



The majority of participants developed practical skills through the course they participated in (93%). Other skills that they developed included teamwork (43%), communication (43%) and transferable skills for volunteering roles (36%).

Figure 5.2 reveals that most of the participants (86%) gained a qualification through the Learning Programme.

Figure 5.2: Gained a Qualification

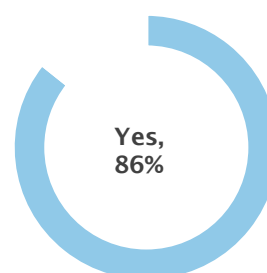


Figure 5.3 displays the reported impact of the learning on the students. It was clear that they felt that the training would be an asset in finding employment.

Figure 5.3: Impact of the learning



When asked about the impact of the course, most participants reported that they had greater awareness of their options regarding employment, training and education (79%), and that the steps to achieve this were clear and

accessible (71%). A significant proportion also reported that the course had positively impacted their self-knowledge (71%), confidence (64%), and ambitions for themselves (57%), all of which contributed to being more ready to enter or re-enter the workplace.

*"Happy to report that with gaining this qualification I have secured a job within a local Primary school, thus being told that knowing that I had a recent first aid qualification really helped them make their final decision on who they thought was best suited for the job."*

Some participants were retired or not looking for work for other reasons. Comments indicated that these people emerged from the course feeling better equipped to carry out their role as a volunteer, thanks to the skills and confidence that they had acquired.

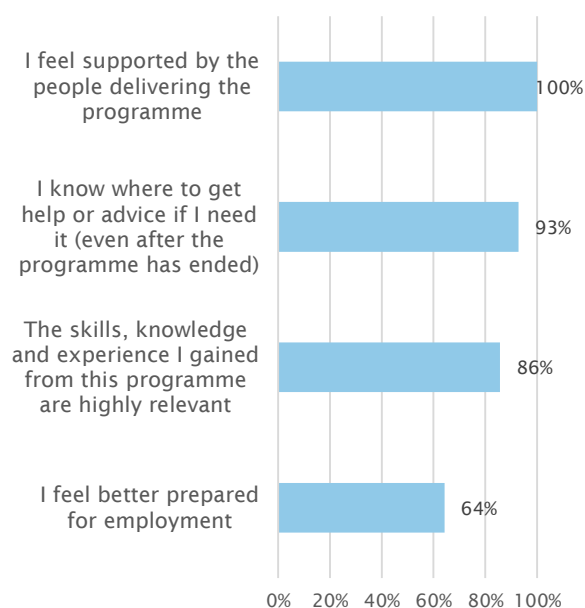
*"I am retired and have no intention of going back to work. However, the first aid training will help in various voluntary roles that I have on various groups; as well as on a personal level. It was a timely refresher."*

*"I'm not currently looking for employment but as a volunteer I feel more confident after receiving training."*

*"I am retired and not looking for employment, but I thought that some knowledge of first aid was a vital skill."*

The delivery of the programme was experienced very positively by participants, as the responses in Figure 5.4 show.

Figure 5.4: Delivery and relevance



All those who took part felt supported by the facilitators, with a significant majority reporting that they felt supported beyond the end of the programme (91%). Roughly two-thirds (66%) reported feeling better prepared for employment, and an even higher proportion (86%) found that the content of the course equipped them with relevant skills, knowledge and experience.

Comments indicate that participants felt the facilitators went 'above and beyond' the basic requirements or expectations of the course, pointing people on to further support and delivering all aspects of the course with excellence.

*"The training and learning officer was very helpful before, during and even after doing the course. She also stated that if I had seen any further courses that would suit myself to not hesitate to get in touch."*

*"It was a good experience & the trainer was excellent."*

*"All staff were amazing at the location I attended and Cairns First Aid was very welcoming and clear on all that she had to show us through the day- she went above and beyond to ensure all questions were answered especially a few I requested as it was more child based first aid. I felt very welcomed and made to feel at ease."*

*"Very well prepared, presented and enjoyable."*

## 5. Grow and Learn in Nature Programme

The CRT delivered the Grow and Learn in Nature (GLiN) programme in partnership with Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society (RCHS). The programme attracted 58 participants in five projects.

Participants and facilitators were asked about their experience of the delivery of the programme, what they learnt, and the personal benefits that they got out of it. Additional themes that emerged from interviews include the impact this programme had on the wider community.

### The content of the programme

Participants expressed positive views about the content of the course.

---

*"It gave you structure, you didn't feel you were just meandering - you can go out and potter about in the garden, but this gave you a bit of purpose, intent, you had produce at the end of it. It was a very concrete, tangible very straightforward thing to follow."*

---

The practical tasks were described as fun and engaging. The facilitators of each group found that they were able to incorporate tasks that suited the interests and ability of their participants, which ranged from children as young as four, to older adults with dementia and limited mobility. The flexibility of the content was regarded as an important way of keeping participants committed and interested throughout the programme, making the delivery easier for the facilitators, too.

---

*"It's not very formal but there is a structure."*

*"It was learning, laughing, having a cup of tea and out in the fresh air."*

*"It's hard physical activity, but it can be a group activity for people at all different levels."*

*"The objectives and things in the workbooks were dead easy to follow, it wasn't an arduous process filling in the forms - that was quite user-friendly."*

---

Participants also expressed that the range of activities they took part in went above and beyond their expectations. Participants described

how they grew a variety of plants, were introduced to tools and techniques that they had never used before, and learnt specific skills such as pickling vegetables, using a polytunnel, and transplanting seedlings.

---

*"Not just flowers - we've been growing onions, potatoes, beetroot, all from seed; and then a few months later we took them outside and planted them out."*

---

When discussing the content of the course, participants emphasised the importance of the awards day at the end of the course. They reflected that the day itself was an enjoyable experience, and gave them a sense of achievement and recognition.

Facilitators saw the awards day as an important opportunity to share what they had achieved, and to see what other groups had done through the GLiN course, giving them ideas for improvement in their own community. Meeting in person helped to cement or create relationships with other groups and to build a stronger network across Fife.

---

*"One of the things I enjoyed was going to visit other places."*

*"It was great to see what the other groups had done - and fair play to them!"*

---

### Learning and experiences

The five online masterclasses were attended by a total of 89 participants.

---

*"It's always been based around education, around people learning."*

---

The masterclasses were seen as a distinguishing feature of the GLiN programme that raised it above other gardening courses. The level of expertise was impressive, and the sessions covered an appropriate range of 'basics' and more detailed information.

The online delivery worked well in most cases, though some experienced connectivity issues. This was seen as 'typical' of online courses, but caveated with the acknowledgement that the online format meant more people could attend more easily, which outweighed the risks of technological failures.

---

*"Really helpful, really detailed, lots of seminars, lots of structure around it."*

*"I've never been involved in anything like it."*

*"The masterclasses just take it to a new level."*

*"Loads and loads of information in the masterclasses."*

---

Participants commented that it felt as though everyone was 'there to learn'. In particular, it was clear that the masterclasses appealed to people of all levels, including people who did not consider themselves gardeners, but were nonetheless interested in learning. At the same time, those with more horticultural experience were pleased to have the opportunity to get advice and insights from specialists. Facilitators commented that the content was easy to adapt and apply in their own community growing space.

---

*"Every bit of it was interesting."*

*"I quite enjoyed it because I don't know much about gardening, I was a bit of a novice really."*

*"I'm not a gardener, but it was quite interesting. And I do stuff in the garden now, I plant things that I would never have planted before."*

---

Gardening was a new experience for a large proportion of the participants. Facilitators noted that for some participants, in particular the young children, the prospect of 'getting your hands dirty' through activities that involved soil work was daunting. Through their experiences on the GLiN programme, children and young people gained a new understanding of nature and in some cases overcame fears, for instance of mud or bugs.

---

*"The idea of putting your hands in mud is scary for some of them - they're always being told to keep themselves clean and it's seen as dirty. But once they'd done it, they were confident about it."*

---

Interviews also indicated that participants took on a great deal of new knowledge – about gardening tools, natural processes such as pollination and pollinators, and practical knowledge – and retained that knowledge beyond

the end of the course. As well as benefiting the participants, facilitators anticipated that they would be able to deliver the programme more easily in the future, thanks to the knowledge they gained.

---

*"We didn't need the same amount of support because we sort of knew what we were doing because of what we did last time [through GLiN]."*

*"It was a learning process for us all."*

---

The positive experience of being outdoors and observing and interacting with nature was a common theme across interviews. Participants mentioned observing changes in plants and nature, as they grew and as the seasons changed. They reflected that the programme was structured around these changes, as they planted, transplanted and harvested what they grew. This helped them to feel connected to nature in general. Some comments indicated that without the GLiN programme, participants would not have been motivated to leave the house and spend time in nature.

---

*"They're out in the fresh air and the fresh air does make a lot of difference."*

*"Things I wouldn't have paid attention to - the different colours in the trees, the bees and wildflowers, just watching the garden come alive. It was amazing."*

---

Some groups provided additional experiences for their participants, including visiting beehives, pickling, jarring and selling their produce, and building and painting planters out of recycled materials. In addition to the horticultural skills they gained, participants reflected on transferrable skills that the programme helped them to learn and develop. In particular, participants mentioned teamwork, social skills, perseverance and adaptability.

### Achieving

52 people were awarded a GLiN certificate at the end of the programme, indicating that they had completed 30 hours of activities.

---

*"It was like Young Entrepreneurs!"*

*"You get a certificate, that's tremendous for people - young people or people out of work, or with mental health issues."*

---

---

*"When I heard I would be getting a certificate, I jumped on board."*

---

Participants and facilitators all emphasised the importance of gaining a certificate through the programme. Some of the young people on the programme were disengaged at school, and gaining the GLiN award was a demonstration of their commitment and achievement.

Similarly, for participants from the STAND dementia group, gaining an award demonstrated that despite their diagnosis, they were still able to achieve things. Interviewees commented on the sense of satisfaction, pride and self-confidence that they gained through participating and being awarded with the certificate at the end of the programme.

---

*"You look back and you think, 'We did that!'"*

*"When you think back, it was some achievement."*

*"Because I'm living with early onset dementia, it just gave me a different purpose."*

---

### Personal impact

The most common theme that arose from discussions about the personal benefits of the GLiN programme was the enjoyment that everyone got out of the sessions. The activities themselves were fun, and the informal structure allowed time to chat and get to know people.

In addition to this, participants also described improvements in mental and physical health, confidence and self-esteem, and the benefits of increased social interactions and time spent outdoors.

Older participants reflected that having fun while working towards a common goal was something that they missed in retirement, and that many of them would be spending the time alone at home if they weren't taking part in GLiN. The programme helped to alleviate loneliness and provided a sense of purpose. Participants spoke about having something to look forward to, and how the programme provided structure to their week.

---

*"We're always joking with somebody; we're always you know trying to get one up on*

*somebody else. And I think that little bit of banter helps, because everybody used to work - some of them like myself have semi-retired, and you miss that banter."*

*"Every week, I got excited to go up to the Shed because you got to see it growing and it was just amazing."*

*"It gave me something to look forward to, because I've not got a job at the moment."*

*"It's just to get them laughing, because sadly some of them stay by themselves - we're trying to stop isolation and [poor] mental health. The only other voice some of the members have is a television."*

---

Another common theme for older participants was the impact of COVID-19 on their mental and physical health. GLiN activities were for the most part delivered outside, meaning that participants could attend during less restrictive periods of lockdown. Participants felt that the programme helped them to overcome fears about returning to normal life and interacting with people again.

---

*"Coming out of lockdown, it was quite clear that a lot of our members had really struggled with no connection and not getting out the house and stuff."*

*"It was really good coming out of lockdown because it really meant the emphasis was on the outside."*

---

For younger participants, the programme created opportunities for them to enjoy activities that they were sceptical about, and combine productivity with fun. Facilitators noticed that young people's enjoyment of the programme grew as their understanding of horticulture grew, which to them indicated that the young people were thoroughly engaged with the principles of the programme.

---

*"Bit by bit, they [C&YP] got what we were looking to achieve."*

*"One lad who was a tough nut to crack eventually brought his friend to see the garden and show him what we'd been doing. So you could tell he was getting something out of it, even though he didn't let on."*

*"It gave me something to look forward to, and it was just an amazing experience - seeing the fruits of my labour and thinking, I've done all that hard work."*

---

---

*"I had sunflowers this year and put them in and they grew! So, wee simple things just enhance your own life in maybe a small way for me, but other people would really thrive on the whole thing."*

*"Getting outside and growing stuff is probably one of the best therapies of the lot."*

---

### Strengthening the community

A significant theme that arose from all interviews was the impact that the GLiN programme had on the communities where the programme was delivered. It brought people together, and the flowers and produce that were grown were appreciated by all local residents. Interviewees reflected that positive relationships had developed between the people on the programme, and that these connections became a useful avenue for reaching groups who are otherwise hard to reach, such as parents of children who aren't in school, or older people who are isolated.

---

*"It's a wee boost for everyone in the village, and it's a great place to stay and visit."*

*"It's important to get kids involved so their relatives and parents feel comfortable in the space, too."*

---

Some programmes worked to improve green spaces in their local area, filling them with wildflower beds and other plants, and fixing and decorating structures. Participants were keen to apply what they had learnt beyond the end of the GLiN programme, and some became regularly involved in other community groups to help with gardening and horticulture.

---

*"There's this lunch club and they've got a garden outside, so I can go and help them maintain the garden and plant flowers."*

---

At one programme, the pickled and jarred produce was sold along with other locally-grown produce; this strengthened bonds in the community as participants were able to demonstrate what they'd done to residents who hadn't been involved in the programme, and the buyers benefitted from the opportunity to buy locally-grown food and feel that they were contributing to their community as well.

---

*"We made money from it! We made £50 off selling the stuff the year we did the GLiN, and then we made £160 or something this year."*

---

Connections between community groups and grass-roots organisations were strengthened through the GLiN programme. Groups that worked together within programmes felt they had developed strong and long-lasting partnerships. The Kennoway Community Shed has put in place dementia-friendly actions as a result of working with the STAND group, to ensure the Shed is accessible to a wider group of people. Similarly, the connection between RCHS and the primary schools had opened up ideas about how to embed more horticultural activities into the school programme, and bring young people to gardening events.

---

*"I would like to think we've got a strong bond with the Shed and the dementia group."*

*"Due to my ignorance - we're asking them, is this ok with you? [...] So you think everything's alright, but now we've changed our building, we've gone dementia friendly."*

*"We've also got a strong bond with the local primary school."*

---

GLiN groups also found that their experience on the programme had introduced them to other organisations further afield. These connections led to small local groups having a clearer idea of what was going on across Fife. They could use this information to build on partnerships, to learn about and take part in more opportunities that were available to them, and for inspiration about what could be achieved in their local area - learning from the examples of others.

---

*"We've tried to continue the relationships [The Shed, The Ecology Centre, Botanic] beyond the end of the programme."*

*"We met a lot of people through this actually, we met this lovely bunch of people at the event, so we extended our knowledge of what's going on across Fife through the whole thing."*

---

## Support from the CRT

It was widely reported that the support from the CRT met and exceeded expectations.

---

*"It was great, really well organised."*

---

The CRT provided practical support to increase the knowledge and capacity of the facilitators. Discussions revealed that facilitators found the support was thorough and continuous, and that they learnt a great deal about how to deliver a programme as well as learning from the content. All their practical needs were met, and facilitators reflected that they felt very confident about being able to ask for help if and when they needed it.

---

*"CRT are always, always there to help us if we need it."*

*"You weren't just left out in the open. You weren't left just to sink."*

*"[Without CRT support] I'd still be doing things wrong probably!"*

---

The relationships built between CRT staff and facilitators were regarded extremely positively: CRT staff were seen to be helpful, friendly, and going above and beyond what expected of them, making the experience uniquely enjoyable and easy for those delivering the programme.

---

*"He said: 'If you want me to come through with the school kids or anybody else, and show you what tools to use or anything at all, just pick up the phone and keep in touch.' And he wasn't just saying that because I was sitting in front of him, he sorely meant that. I felt like I wasn't just a number, I felt we're part of a wee family."*

---

## Challenges

When asked about challenges involved in delivering the programme, facilitators mentioned that in most cases, there were very few challenges and any that arose were dealt with easily – with the support of the CRT where necessary.

One concern about the format of the programme was that the days were long and infrequent. For older participants, the long days were physically challenging, and some found they weren't able to contribute for the whole day.

---

*"When they come in on a Monday, it's a long day for them."*

---

At the same time, sessions happening once a week meant that facilitators were required to maintain the plants and gardens in between sessions. In some cases, this amounted to many hours of work for one individual.

---

*"It's quite hard to get people to water and weed and stuff - it's not like we're there every day."*

*"They [plants] need watering in between, but it's not possible for them [GLiN ppts] to come in every day and water them."*

---

Facilitators suggested that shorter sessions that happen more frequently would be beneficial, especially for older people who are retired or have few other weekday commitments.

## 6. Coalfields Worx

The Coalfields Worx programme ran at two locations with in total 15 unemployed young people (18-24 years): Fife (5 participants) and East Ayrshire (10 participants).

### Working towards employment

The programme was clearly focused on getting the participants work-ready through a number of activities:

- **Formal qualifications:** the young people worked full time in the project, got paid for their work and got a range of qualifications, including forklift, chainsaw, trailer and rope access certificates.
- **Informal on the job training:** the Project Supervisor worked alongside the young people, showing them what to do, and how to do it. The young people were involved in all stages of the assignments they have taken on: negotiating with the clients, planning the work, costing things out and aftercare.
- **Work experience:** by actually working for a long period of time in real jobs, the young people gained valuable work experience.
- **Job seeking support:** the Project Supervisor helped the young people with preparing their CV and covering letters, searching for vacancies and preparing for interviews.

All 15 young people that took part in the programme are currently in paid full-time employment.

### Wider impact on young people

Apart from getting young people into a job, the programme had a wider impact on them:

- **Increased work related skills:** the young people taking part in the programme learned valuable transferable skills, including time keeping, teamwork, leadership skills,
- **More social skills:** from working together as a groups and interacting with clients and the wider community young people developed their social and communication skills.

- **Improved motivation:** from working and achieving the young people became more motivated to do other things, including looking for employment, improving their housing situation and repairing relationships.
- **Increased confidence:** from working and developing themselves the young people got a boost in confidence. The programme showed them that it was possible to turn their life around and work towards a positive destination.
- **Improved mental health:** many of the young people taking part in the programme had mental health issues, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown measures. The Project Supervisor worked with young people on these issues and referred them on to other services when required.

## --- CASE STUDY --- Fife Coalfields Worx

### The Coalfields Worx programme

The programme ran in Fife during 2022. Originally the project was planned to last for 6 months, but the Covid-19 pandemic had a detrimental impact on the opportunity for face-to-face contact, the ability to win and deliver work and the opportunities for formal training. Therefore, the programme was extended with another 6 months.

The programme was delivered by the Fife Employment Access Trust (FEAT).

The programme started by recruiting suitable young people. To ensure that the experience was as much real as possible, there was an open competitive recruitment process. There were ten applicants for the positions, six got interviewed and five were successful. One of the selection criteria was that the applicant was unemployed, had significant barriers to employment and showed a willingness to turn their life around.

*"It's quite easy to find suitable young people, because there are so many young people looking for work."*

After initial training, the group did a range of gardening and maintenance jobs for a variety of clients. This included gardening and grass cutting, horticulture, path maintenance, litter picking, street and street furniture maintenance and house clearings.

### Overcoming barriers

The young people that were successful showed a range of issues, including a history of addiction, offending behaviour, mental health issues and serious lack of confidence.

It took a long time for some young people, but through working and achieving eventually they overcame these barriers. Working gave them a sense of purpose and pride.

The young people worked in their local communities in the West-Fife villages, where some of them were well known, but not in a positive way. Being seen by their neighbours in a positive way has helped them to come out of their shell.

*“They had these kind of mental barriers at times where they felt they couldn’t do it, they couldn’t achieve. So it was just a case of giving them reassurance.”*

*“There is a sort of inertia among young people that are out of work”*

*“A lot of them were quite shy, they didn’t want to speak to anyone.”*

### Developing skills

The programme started with extensive training by Fife Council (e.g. first aid, asbestos handling, manual handling) and the Project Supervisor (e.g. grass cutting, joinery, gardening).

Later in the programme the young people were given a budget to access further specialised training with external providers. The young people chose Forklift License training (2), Chainsaw certificate and Rope Access training. One young person chose not to do any other training.

At the end of the course the young people showed evidence of a range of work-related and personal skills, including time keeping, customer

care, communication, leadership, showing initiative and taking criticism.

*“If it hadn’t been for [Project Supervisor] taking this course I wouldn’t have got out of bed in the morning.”*

*“They gained transferrable skills – not just skills they can use in work, but skills they can use socially while they’re out and about and while they’re at home.”*

### Developing the confidence to move on

The programme, which resembled a ‘proper job’ gave them the motivation and confidence to look for a job.

*“They weren’t just signing up to a training programme, they were treated like adults in a proper job.”*

Over the course of a year, all five young people have found fulltime sustainable jobs: greenkeeper at a golf course, painter decorator, ground staff at a university, environmental services in Council and maintenance officer at a power station.

An assessment of professionals revealed that without intervention the outcome for the five young people would most likely be quite different, as shown in Table 5.1.

TABLE 5.1:

	Prediction	Actual
A	Needed a bit of confidence, would have eventually got there.	In sustainable employment
B	Well-known character in the community, ducking and diving ‘wide boy’, would not get employment.	In sustainable employment
C	Mental health issues and had some work experience. Would have got some kind of job eventually.	Made a career change, now in dream job
D	Addiction history, mental health issues, would not get employment.	In sustainable employment
E	Lived in rough situation, involved in offending behaviour, would not get a job.	In sustainable employment

# 6: Tackling Inequality: Health and Wellbeing

This Section provides evidence of the impact of the Game On Scotland programme on health and wellbeing.

## Game On

The Game On programme in Scotland has worked with 752 young people across the Football 5ives, Game On Girls and Game On Active strands of the programme.

The sessions are co-delivered by a football coach and a youth worker. This means that when young people are not playing, they can chat to the youth worker, who can get to know them, and signpost them to other programmes and services. In some location the involvement of youth workers means that young people with transport barriers can be collected by minibus.

In some of the locations the local police is involved. They can build up trust with young people, deliver information on topics such as alcohol, drugs or criminal behaviour.

Young people are recruited via posters, flyers, social media and local schools, via Active School staff. When the programme is established, word of mouth is the most powerful recruitment tool.

*“There won’t be many who haven’t heard of it.”*

*“Kids come from the local primary school and pretend to be old enough to join because they have heard of it and want to be involved.”*

The programme is very well received. Almost all young people(97%) enjoyed the Game On sessions as shown in Figure 6.1 .

Figure 6.1: Enjoy Game On

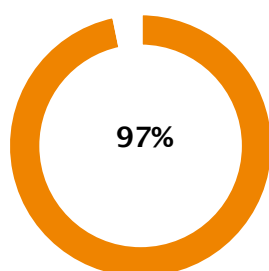
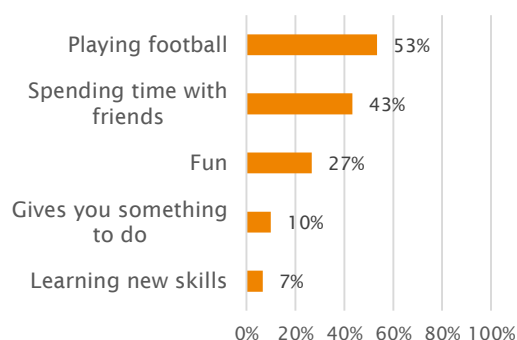


Figure 6.2 highlights the most favourite aspects of the programme.

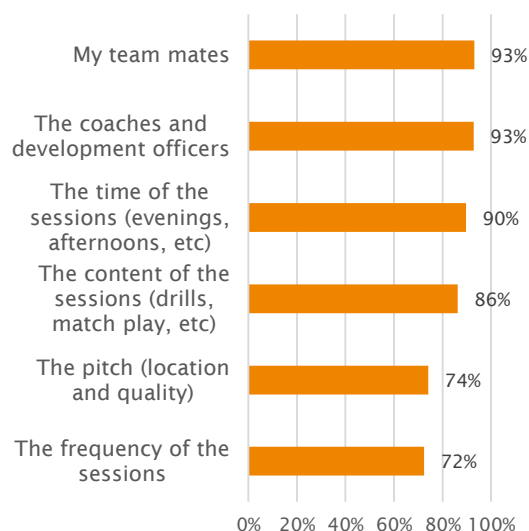
Figure 6.2: Favourite aspect



Other favourite aspects that were mentioned included: inclusivity, competitiveness, the coaches, getting to know new people, and the fact that it was free.

Figure 6.3 details the satisfaction of the young people with the various elements of the programme.

Figure 6.3: Delivery of the sessions



Players enjoy the company of their fellow players (93%) and the coaches (93%). Young people are

also happy with the content of the sessions (86%), their timings (90) and frequency (72%) and the venue (74%).

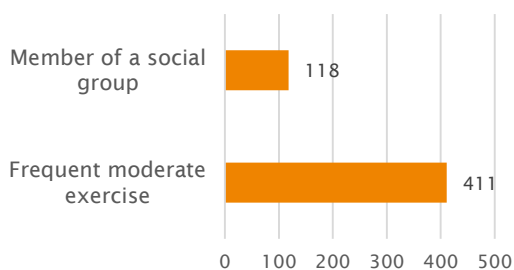
Delivery partners are very satisfied with how the programme runs and with the support the receive from the CRT.

*“Any issues, XXX [CRT staff] is there. He is in touch a lot anyway, asking how things have gone and how he can help.”*

**The impact of Game On**

The CRT uses the Value Insight Tool to track the achievement of the participants. Game On has collected evidence for 411 Football 5 participants who achieved the outcome of doing moderate exercise frequently and 118 Game On Girls participants who being part of a community group in the Value Insight Tool.

**Figure 6.4: Value Insight Tool outcomes**



From the Game On participant survey as part of this study a wider range of outcomes of the programme was identified.

Four out of five young people (80%) reported an increase in confidence from their participation in Game On as shown in Figure 6.5.

**Figure 6.5: Increased confidence**

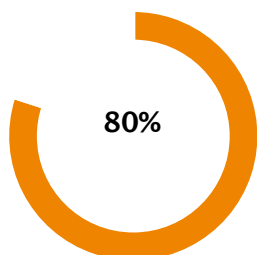
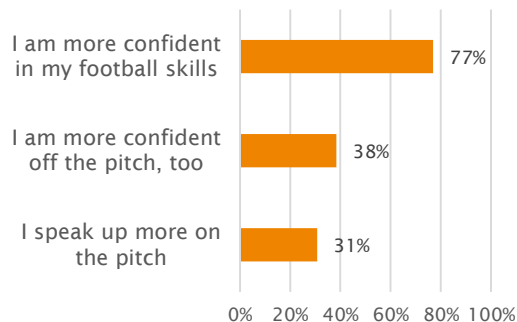


Figure 6.6 provides more detail about why participants think they are more confident.

**Figure 6.6: Indicators of increased confidence**



More than threequarters of participants is more confident in their football skills (77%), almost four in ten (38%) feels more confident off the pitch as well (38%) and just under a third speaks up more (31%).

One of the coaches talks about a young person that really came out of his shell. In the beginning he was very nervous speaking to people, now he chats away at the beginning of the session.

The vast majority of young people (90%) reported a better physical health as a result of taking part in the programme, as is depicted in Figure 6.7.

**Figure 6.7: Improved physical health**

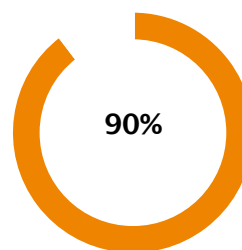
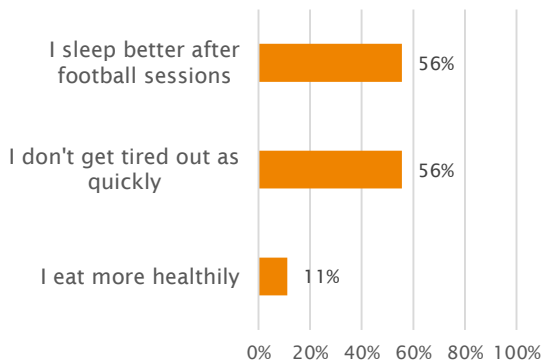


Figure 6.8 provides some indicators of improved health.

**Figure 6.8: Indicators of improved physical health**



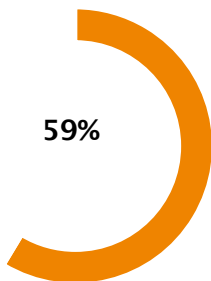
Young people report sleeping better (56%), being fitter (56%) and eating better (11%).

*"I am not as fat anymore."*

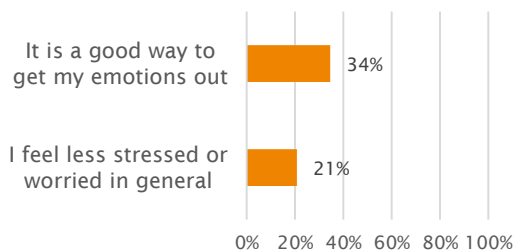
*"It makes me feel better at breathing."*

Figure 6.9 reveals that the game On programme also has a positive impact on the majority of young people's mental health (59%).

**Figure 6.9: Improved Mental Health**



**Figure 6.10: Indicators of improved mental health**



A third of participants (34%) see the Game On sessions as a good way to relieve stress and a fifth (21%) say they feel less stressed in general.

Figure 6.11 reveals that almost three quarter of young people taking part in the Game On programme (71%) have made new friends.

**Figure 6.11: Made new friends**

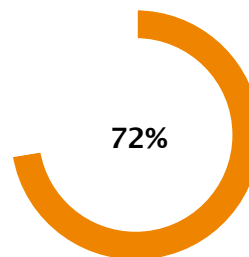
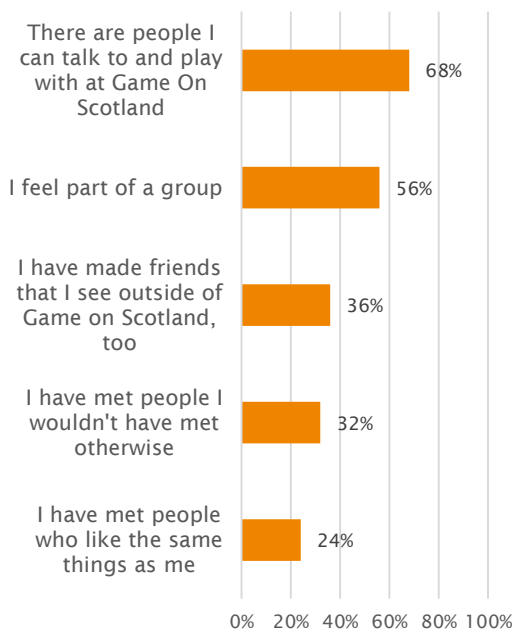


Figure 6.12 provides more insight in those new friendships.

**Figure 6.12: New friendships**



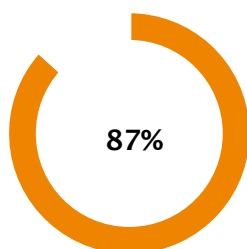
Young people feel they can talk to others (68%) and feel part of a group (56%). They report meeting new people who they would not have met otherwise (32%) with similar interests (24%) that they also see outside of the programme (36%).

*"Getting to know new people and learning new skills."*

An important element of the Game On programme is to divert young people from undesirable behaviour.

Just under half of the young people (48%) indicated that this was an issue for them and of those the majority (87%) report that the programme has had a positive effect on their behaviour.

Figure 6.13: Diverted from antisocial behaviour



---

*"It helped me cause I was always out with my friends mucking about and doing stupid things that would get us in trouble but Game On helped me stop do those things."*

*"Yes this help me a lot by keeping me away from crime and bad thing that go on In my area."*

*"I used to do stuff I shouldn't be but Game On keeps me occupied."*

*"I am in here and not in house or out and about causing trouble or being cheeky."*

---

Coaches and Youth Workers emphasise that 'keeping young people out of trouble' is an important aspect of the programme. They build trust relationships with the young people.

One coach tells that before the programme started, there was frequent vandalism and drinking going on at the school grounds at night. Young people were with bikes on the Astro turf, burning holes in it, were rude to staff, stealing things, breaking and climbing fences. This was very stressful for the staff at the school, but now it is hardly an issue any more. The Police have noticed the difference too.

A police officer talks about regular nuisance of a large group of young people gathering in the field behind the pitch. Now they have all moved from the field where they were disrupting the peace to playing football.

A Youth Worker gave the example of a girl that always had issues at school but did not want the Youth Worker to talk to school about it. Eventually, the girl got excluded, told the Youth Worker about it, and agreed it would be good to come back to school and see the Youth Worker at school once a week. It took a long time but the relationship developed thanks to football and would not have happened at school.

Another youth worker tells that it is a good chance to connect with young people, especially after lockdown, and tell them what other work they do, get their opinion on what needs changed in the local area, how they can help them more, for example with social media security or making good choices. Game On helps to improve basic life skills and learns them how to behave in a group.

A police officer reveals that he feels young people now trust and have relationship with the police. If they are called out to people making trouble, chances are one of the young people will tell them who it was, engage with them, whereas previously you'd just be met with blank faces. The game on programme has mad young people see police officers as humans.

---

*"They build relationships with the coaches - someone everyone knows from the community; someone the kids trust."*

*"School staff have the support of the coaches and the police and kids respect what happens on the Astro and so they respect the staff more."*

*"There's a range, good mixture, relatable but also people they respect. They become people that young people have a bond with. They see them out in the community as well."*

*"It gives them something to do - would just be sitting at home otherwise, or getting into things they shouldn't be doing. There is a knock on effect - their friends see them at football rather than messing about and are less likely to get into trouble themselves."*

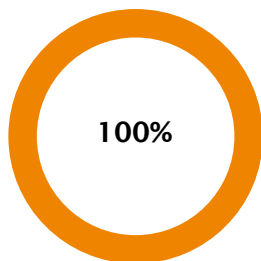
*"There is social deprivation in XXX - but you don't get kids bringing alcohol to the football, so they drink less and cause less trouble."*

*"It is dispersing hotspots on a Friday night, it's a massively helpful to the Police."*

---

Finally, all young people (100%) indicated that taking part in Game On made them happy, as revealed in Figure 6.14.

Figure 6.14: Increased happiness



Young people indicated that they were looking forward to Game On sessions (55%) and have fun (90%)

*"It just makes u happy waking up in the morning knowing you've got something good to go to."*

*"Fun to have a kick about with your mates."*

*"It's fun and something else to do outside of school. Is better than sitting about the house."*

--- CASE STUDY ---  
**Game On: Dalmellington**

The Game On sessions in Dalmellington happen every Friday night at the leisure centre Astro. They are attended by a regular group of roughly 70 young people aged between 12-17 years old.

Participants come from two other local villages, Bellsbank and Patna, as well as from Dalmellington. The sessions are advertised via the local schools and through social media, but most effectively through word-of-mouth by the young people who attend and enjoy the sessions, and encourage their friends to come along.

The sessions are informal in structure, and directed by the interests of those attending. The young people are split into groups according to age, and given freedom to organise drills, training matches or other games amongst themselves. Two coaches supervise the sessions and step in to coach or manage small matches when needed.

In the lead-up to the Community Cup (discussed below), young people who volunteered for the

team took part in formal training sessions delivered by the coaches. Game On Dalmellington also hosted a small tournament day at the end of the year, where the winning teams and select individuals won awards.

Kit (bibs and footballs) is provided by Game On, water and snacks by partner social workers, and a minibus is supplied by the youth club that the coach is attached to, which means that young people who have limited access to public transport can be picked up and dropped off in the local area.

**Something to do**

It was clear from interviews that the sessions provide young people with something to do on a Friday night when they would otherwise have very limited options. Young people reflected that if it wasn't for Game On sessions, they would spend the time on their own at home, most suggesting that they would either be playing video-games or doing nothing. Very few participants played football for local clubs or attended any other after-school activity.

*"At least there's something we can do."*

*"If the Astro was open, I'd come round to the Astro, otherwise I'd be doing nothing or on my play-station probably."*

*(Participants)*

This perspective was reiterated by the coach. There is very little on offer in any of the local villages, and without the football sessions, young people would likely have nothing to do on a Friday evening. The football provided them with a positive activity to get involved in, and encouraged them to get outdoors even in the winter. The coach also reflected that the Friday night sessions served the same purpose for himself, the other coaches and delivery partners involved.

*"I'd probably be doing nothing - just finish up my normal work and sitting in the house."*

*(Coach)*

**Being social**

Spending time with friends was a significant theme that arose from interviews with young people. The chance to spend time with people outside of school was important to them, and the

Game On sessions provided a fun, relaxed environment in which people could develop old friendships and build new ones.

---

*"It's the only place you can really see your friends that's not on a stupid wee X-box."*

*"It gets him out the house, and it means I get to see him, so that's win-win."*

*"There's very little opportunity for engagement with your friends except for this."*

*(Participants)*

---

Young people found that they were able to maintain friendships with people that went to other schools, whom they wouldn't see otherwise, and to make new, lasting friendships. In particular, the Game On sessions were a place where age, football ability, and team affiliations didn't matter, and conventional social barriers were broken down.

---

*"Me and him have become pals because of this - when he sees me at school, he'll come over."*

*"I go to a different school, so it's a big chance for me to see my pals."*

*(Participants)*

*"Breaking down barriers, because it's a big age group - 12 to 17, so we're trying to break down barriers between the older ones and the younger ones and mix them all together and that. And they're all getting on really well."*

*(Coach)*

---

The coach noted that opportunities to socialise were particularly important for young people after the COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdowns had had a lasting negative impact on young people's ability to participate in group activities, and Game On enabled them to develop social skills such as teamwork, collaboration and communication.

---

*"He feels welcome here, I'd never spoken to him before, and now I speak to him."*

*(Participant)*

*"Somewhere they can come with their friends, especially after the pandemic, it's getting them all together."*

*(Coach)*

---

The format of the sessions encourages socialising, and the coaches have noticed that young people come along to the Dalmellington sessions with their friends and stay to watch even if they don't want to play football.

Young people reflected that the attitude of the coaches helped to cultivate the friendly atmosphere of the sessions, and that they had built up good relationships with the adults. They speak to them outside of the sessions, and felt that if they had anything on their mind, the adults at Game On were people they would be able to speak to.

---

*"[Coach] is probably my favourite person in the world."*

*"He's my best pal."*

*"They're amazing, so good, he's a good guy."*

*"He lifts the spirits of the group."*

*(Participants)*

---

### Gaining skills

Some participants reflected that Game On sessions had helped them to improve their football skills. For those who played for other clubs or local teams, the informal sessions were a chance to practice and improve on what they'd been taught elsewhere. For others, the mixing of age groups and abilities meant that they played with people with a broader range of ability than they would otherwise, and were pushed to improve or to adapt their football.

The Game On sessions provided some participants with the opportunity to develop coaching skills, including transferable skills such as leadership, patience, and techniques for teaching people new things.

One of the older participants has returned to the Game On sessions as a support coach, to develop his abilities and gain experience that will contribute to his SQA in coaching.

### Improving wellbeing

A number of mental and physical wellbeing benefits were mentioned during interviews with young people. Game On was seen as an effective way of lifting their mood during the sessions and during the rest of the week as it gave them something to look forward to. The enjoyment of playing football with a large group of friends

came through strongly in discussions with both young people and the coach.

---

*"A lot of my week is hanging on this - from the Monday, this is what I get through each day for, what I get through the week for."*

*"Everybody looks forward to it from the Monday on."*

*"I can't wait till a Friday night so I can just get out and play."*

*(Participants)*

*"To be fair, I've started looking forward to the Friday nights, because it's just enjoyable, it's really good!"*

*(Coach)*

---

Some mentioned that Game On helped them to cope with stress. The relaxed setting and the chance to throw themselves into a physical activity without any pressure was a good way to release pent-up emotions.

---

*"If I had issues, I could imagine this would be a good place to come and get my stress out."*

*"There's no, 'get in boys, you've got a training session' - there's no hassle here. There's nothing to be scared of, you just walk in and everything's calm."*

*"It is quite stressful sometimes, with exams and stuff, and this takes some of that stress away because you just get to kick a ball around."*

*(Participants)*

---

The coach recognised this as a key benefit for participants, too. In particular, it gave young people the chance to express themselves through sport, which was different to how they were expected to behave at school.

---

*"Football gives you a chance to express yourself, it lets them get things out of their mind and body - a release."*

*(Coach)*

---

People discussed losing weight and having a chance to get outside and be active more often as benefitting their physical health, in some cases making PE lessons at school easier. In general, however, since the sessions were informal and didn't require fitness training, young people reflected that sports they did at school had a

greater impact than Game On on their physical health and fitness.

### **Boosting confidence**

Young people developed their confidence through the Game On sessions, to a noticeable extent. Young people reflected that they had felt their own confidence develop, and saw their friends becoming more confident, too. Their increased confidence during sessions led to them feeling more self-confident in general, in particular when speaking to new people.

There were a variety of things that young people identified as contributing to their increased confidence. For some, the opportunity to practice gave them confidence when playing football elsewhere. Others found that they were more confident playing against people who were older and more skilled than themselves, while others reflected that teaching younger or less experienced players skills and tricks boosted their self-confidence. Winning games, tackles, matches, and making good saves as goalie were also mentioned as key moments when players felt confident and proud of their abilities.

The coach commented on the difference in individuals' confidence since the beginning of the sessions, noting that Game On helped them to come out of their shell.

---

*"Some individuals were really shy, and had less to say and weren't coming out of their shell - and recently I've seen them actually getting into the middle of things and everybody talking - it really does help them."*

*(Coach)*

---

### **Increasing pride in the community**

The Game On sessions have had a significant impact on how young people view their community and their place within the community.

In discussions, they reflected that there was little in Dalmellington that they were proud of. The Leisure Centre is the only community resource, and young people expressed feeling disconnected from it, because there were no regular activities available for free, and there was no clear avenue of communication for them to find out about what was available or voice their opinions about what they would like. The Astro, which was opened at the discretion of the Leisure Centre, had been built on top of a green space they had previously used for sports and

games, so some residents felt they had lost an opportunity to play sport for free at any time.

Since Game On started in Dalmellington, young people felt they had something to be proud of, and that Dalmellington could be advantageously compared to other local villages.

---

*"Dalmellington's a pretty average place, without football. Now it's above average."*

*"Being at a different school, I'm always boasting about this. They're literally a stone's toss away from their Astro, and I'm in the middle of nowhere but I've still got an Astro."*

*(Participants)*

---

### Strengthening community connections

The Game On sessions helped to strengthen connections within the community, as the CRT partnered with youth workers and Active Schools Scotland to deliver the sessions.

The adults involved in Game On found that young people were more likely to engage with them after joining the sessions, despite having known them for a long time through other roles. Communication between youth workers and teachers helped to provide all adults with a fuller picture of individual young people, and provide more targeted and personalised support where necessary.

---

*"I've had some approach me when they've had problems at school, so I can go to their school and it's just another voice for them."*

*(Coach)*

---

Young people gain a sense of recognition in school, as they know that teachers are aware of the sessions because everybody talks about Game On during the week. Adults commented that the sessions have contributed to young people's behaviour at school improving, through respect for their teachers and as a result of having somewhere to go to let off steam.

---

*"There are some kids that have had trouble at school with their behaviour and I've heard that they're calming down a bit and having a wee bit more respect for their teachers."*

*(Coach)*

---

Young people also feel more included in their own community, amongst their peers. Being part of a football team helps to bring people together, and interviewees described actively drawing people in who were shy at first, or not part of an established friendship group.

---

*"We all crowded round him shouting, 'One of us' and that made him feel a bit more at home."*

*(Participant)*

---

The participants and adults involved in Game On Dalmellington come from three near-by villages, between which public transport is infrequent and unreliable. The sessions have strengthened links between these communities, as young people and adults have shared experiences and stronger relationships.

### Wider benefits for Dalmellington

Dalmellington and the local area has experienced problems with antisocial behaviour in the past. Adults reflected that boredom and a lack of connection or ownership within their community contributed to young people's tendencies to engage in destructive or harmful behaviour.

---

*"Without the Friday nights, the kids would be running amok, they'd have nothing to do. And it keeps them away from alcohol and that - which has been a big problem up our way for years."*

*(Coach)*

---

Since Game On sessions have been delivered in Dalmellington, there has been a marked reduction in antisocial behaviour. Friday nights went from being a point of negative comparison to other nights of the week for antisocial behaviour, to being the night with the least incidents. Additionally, the coach inferred that the football sessions had contributed to young people improving their behaviour in general, thanks in part to the positive relationships they developed with adults at Game On.

---

*"We've had problems with antisocial behaviour in these villages and within three months of this getting up and running that's completely gone."*

*"You always get a 'Hello' when you see them out and about, they've got a lot of respect."*

*(Coach)*

---

Another contributing factor was that the area around the Leisure Centre was somewhere people would congregate on Friday nights to drink alcohol and engage in other disruptive behaviour, but those groups have now been effectively redirected towards football.

Young people likewise recognised the significant impact that Game On sessions had on antisocial behaviour in the area. They reflected that they or their peers would be drawn towards destructive activities on a Friday night out of boredom, and because their friends were doing the same.

---

*"If this wasn't on, on a Friday night, they might be getting up to things like setting bins on fire or something."*

*"It keeps people occupied, that's important."*

*"There's a bunch that would be drinking on a Friday night but they don't because this is on."*

---

Having football sessions instead was a positive distraction, and had a lasting impact for a number of reasons. Young people described feeling more respect towards the Astro and the Leisure Centre in general, and developing good habits and traits through Game On such as turning up on time and respecting other people and the equipment.

The sessions also tired them out, making them less inclined to go out and release their energy in other ways after the sessions end at 9pm.

---

*"It keeps people off the streets."*

*"It tires you out so when people go home they're not going out afterwards."*

*"We like having the Astro, so 100% yeah [would respect it]."*

*(Participants)*

---

Some participants also noted that older members of the community come along to the football sessions sometimes when they have nothing else to do. This was seen as their way of getting out of the house and engaging in something positive when they otherwise might not be.

---

*"This is set up for kids, but even adults come, even 20-year olds because they don't have anything else to do and they*

*don't want to do things that would get them in trouble or something."*

*(Participant)*

---

### The Community Cup

Game On Dalmellington entered a team of 14-16 year olds in the Coalfields Community Cup 2022. The experience was a memorable one for those who played, and all Game On participants reported looking forward to the next event.

The team had few opportunities to practice together and had not experienced playing together against another full team before the Community Cup tournament itself. While some teams had been training all year, the Dalmellington group had only had two months' of Friday night sessions to prepare. Young people also noted that they were from a collection of small villages and they considered their collective talent to be limited compared to larger villages and towns where there might be more people from which to select a competitive team.

Despite these apparent disadvantages, the Dalmellington group made it to the semi-finals, and were beaten on penalties in their last match, coming 3<sup>rd</sup> out of all the Game On teams in Scotland. The coach indicated that he felt an enormous sense of pride in their achievement, and the young people likewise felt proud to have represented their community so well.

---

*"It gives you a sense of pride, playing for such a small village in such a big tournament."*

*(Participant)*

---

Alongside this achievement, the young people reported that they had enjoyed the experience of travelling to Kelty where the matches were hosted, playing against other Game On teams, and getting a broader sense of what their football sessions were part of. They also projected that winning the Community Cup firstly was an achievable goal for their football team, and secondly would bring significant recognition and celebration to the villages in support of their achievement.

---

*"It would be incredible if we won the Community Cup. Everyone in the village would celebrate - we'd all be out on the streets."*

*(Participant)*

---

### Programme delivery

Participants largely agreed that they liked the format of the sessions, and had few suggestions on how they could be improved. One theme that arose frequently in interviews was that young people would like the sessions to happen more often. Though the Astro was open on other nights of the week, Game On sessions brought the greatest number of people, and that made a difference to the atmosphere of the sessions.

---

*"There isn't the same buzz on other nights."*

*"If you said Game On was happening every night of the week, you see the same numbers [as at the Friday sessions] at every session."*

*"I'd be here every single day if it was on."*

*(Participants)*

---

Some older participants spoke about including more rigorous training, and having more differentiation between younger and older participants. With so many people on the Astro, and younger boys playing against older boys, they felt that the opportunity to release pent-up emotions and physical stress was reduced because they had to be more careful.

From the perspective of the adults, the delivery of the sessions ran smoothly, and the support from the CRT was effective and efficient. The coach reflected that football session would perhaps continue to happen on a Friday night if the CRT were not there to support it, but it would be a significantly bigger drain on financial and other resources of the adults delivering it. Having a large and supportive organisation on hand to help meant that they could deliver a higher quality session to more people, more easily.

---

*"Anything we need, like kit, bibs, anything we need he's got a budget for that."*

*"If we run into any slight problems, they're always there to get it sorted and there's no hitches in the road, it gets done there and then you're not waiting around."*

---

Additionally, the coach was able to consider improvements and plans for the future, including expanding the provision of youth support activities in tandem with the football sessions. At the time of speaking to us, initial discussions

with CRT staff had taken place and the coach was optimistic about being able to implement talks and integrate visits from community organisations such as Fire and Safety and the local Police, in line with what the young people had demonstrated or expressed an interest in.

## 7: Stakeholder Views

This section of the report provides an analysis of the views of key stakeholders as expressed in interviews.

### Adding value

It is clear that the CRT in Scotland helps other organisations in coalfields areas, ranging from community organisations to statutory agencies to achieve their strategic objectives and thus add value.

Many interviewees acknowledged that the CRT in Scotland is working towards the same strategic objectives as their own organisations, including inclusive growth, tackling inequalities, creating thriving places and environmental sustainability.

Organisations mentioned the practical support, resources and expertise that CRT brings. This includes funding, support to access external funding, research and connections.

It was particularly valued that CRT in Scotland has longstanding relationships with organisations and communities. This makes them a trusted pair of hands, both by statutory organisations and communities.

---

*"From previous experience, I do know that they have real credibility with the communities they are working with."*

*"They can provide consistent focused time and support, which the Council can't."*

*"I don't have the luxury of concentrated input, whereas they come along and commit to that project for that given period and often afterwards as well for follow-up support."*

*"We are working with them to reverse the fortunes of those areas."*

*"We see them as one of our core delivery partners in Scotland. I can't overstate how much of a difference they've made in terms of delivering this programme."*

*"They use methodologies that support our work and are similar to the way we would work, so alignment from what they do to what we do is very easy."*

*"They understand what we're trying to do here with our support mechanisms to families."*

---

This trust enabled the CRT to broker productive relationships between coalfield communities and public sector organisations.

---

*"They save a lot of time and hassle. They make connections with organisations I would otherwise not have heard of."*

*"They let us understand views, positions or opportunities on the ground."*

---

The CRT's expertise in engaging and consulting communities was also frequently mentioned.

---

*"CRT helps us to filter out the loudest people so that everyone gets heard."*

---

Finally, the research and evidence base that the CRT in Scotland have created was seen as valuable.

---

*"It means we can go to the Scottish Government and lobby and it's not based on a hunch, or a bias, or a prejudice, it's based on evidence, it's based on analysis of the facts. And it's not swayed by a political perspective, either."*

---

### Effective programme delivery

Most interviewees believe that the CRT delivers their programmes in an effective and efficient way. Having CRT around avoids duplication.

---

*"I can't really think of another organisation who could do it as effectively."*

*"They come prepared every time they're involved in anything. They're prepared, they're organised, they're approachable and enthusiastic, they're focused and they try to keep the communities on track - that's not an easy task when you're a new group."*

*"They're so approachable and it's a can-do attitude."*

---

Most interviewees agree that the focus of the CRT in Scotland is the right one. They bring knowledge and expertise plus a thorough understanding of what coalfield communities need and the skills and contacts to bring the right partners to the table.

The fact that the CRT had an in depth understanding of what is happening in other coalfield areas was mentioned as beneficial.

---

*"The important thing about CRT is that they're sticking with it. They've got tenacity and endurance and resilience and they're sticking with it."*

*"The majority of my team will know exactly who they are and we all have their phone and email saved because of the relationships they've had over the years."*

---

## The impact of the CRT in Scotland

### Building capacity

Capacity building for coalfield communities to address their issues and regenerate their area was seen as a key priority area for the CRT in Scotland and where they make significant impact. They create a sense of ownership with communities.

The CRT in Scotland was also recognised for raising and supporting the aspirations of coalfield communities. A combination of knowledge of other areas with listening in detail to what communities want was seen as a major strength of the CRT in Scotland.

---

*"What they can do that we can't is they can provide focused time and support and resource to help and prepare the community - not to do it for them, but to generally co-produce and assist the community to undertake mapping and needs assessment and then to make sense of that local place and work out what's needed to for that local place going forward. And they do it so well."*

*"They act like a community partner for us in these communities, so ideally what the next phase will be, is they hand that over to the community groups and make it very locally owned."*

*"There are now communities that are more empowered and able to self-organised, and they've got a clearer idea of what some of their priorities are."*

---

---

*"The volunteers are there to learn skills, to have that support around them and to help them on to further education or volunteering or a job. How can we help them climb out of poverty? And CRT has very much been a part of that."*

*"It was a bit of a catalyst for the community to see what could actually be done with funding - small amounts and larger amounts can actually make a massive change."*

---

### Engaging communities

Interviewees frequently mentioned the expertise of the CRT in Scotland to engage with communities and make sure that everyone was included and all voices were heard.

The CRT in Scotland were also credited for turning community views into solid pieces of evidence, which could be used for planning, fundraising and lobbying purposes.

---

*"There was a lot of contribution from the community and other partners."*

*"Like with any community consultation, you could always do more, but they've done their very best to engage with the different parts of the community."*

*"They do some very, very good analysis and consultation work, they're good at publicising their documents and giving us a summary of what people are saying."*

*"They know what the community wants in a broader sense, on many levels, and they tell me what the community needs. They're even thinking beyond the next stage."*

*"She spoke to the right people in the community to get that support and buy-in."*

*"It facilitates conversations, which we can then draw information from."*

*"They kind of marshal the community, and they're excellent at that."*

*[without CRT] "It would be hugely time consuming; I would probably be involved with the loudest people not the right people, and I would not be sure that it would reflect what the community really wants."*

---

---

*"It wasn't just people coming in directly and saying, Oh you need that and this, They were actually asking the community."*

---

### Bringing partners on board

Most interviewees thought that the CRT in Scotland was good at collaborating and partnership working. They know the right partners and are able to get them to buy in to the process.

Historically, the relationship between community organisations and the Council and other agencies can be somewhat tense. The CRT in Scotland in many cases is the bridge between communities and the statutory agencies.

---

*"We find it a very productive relationship, very helpful organisation to work with generally, they're really good at communicating, really good at meeting up and chatting, open to ideas, so that ethos of working in partnership is clearly very much what they do."*

*"They're an invaluable partner."*

*"They do a very thorough mapping job at that stage, which then means that because they know who are the stakeholders from the third sector partnership, they can then know who they need to go and engage with."*

*"They tend to be quite connected and quite accessible to local community groups, local political groups, and local environmental groups - that's an interface that we as a council need to be aware of."*

*"CRT just save me a lot of hassle, because they actually know everybody that I need to speak to. Even before I know they exist, they've made the connections and I get a call."*

*The partnership benefits us in both ways - we can use their relationships but also it can help them cultivate new relationships where they maybe are lacking in certain areas."*

*"Their links with the community and their ability to cultivate those conversations not only with the community members but with public bodies - so the schools, the health teams, the council themselves - so all of those connections that span a whole range of the community has been really, really helpful."*

---

---

*"They do have great relationships across the board."*

---

### Reducing inequality and poverty

By doing the work they do, the CRT in Scotland is helping left behind coalfield communities and individuals reducing inequality and poverty by developing skills, creating employment, increasing health and wellbeing and regenerating communities.

---

*"I think if CRT Scotland weren't there, some of these communities would feel perhaps, from a social point of view, more isolated."*

*"I think they've left [XXXX] a better place than they found it."*

*"Quite a lot of them suffer disproportionately from issues around unemployment, poverty, and lots of inequalities that come with that."*

*"If we can offer the training and support, then we can help people climb out of poverty, and then less children will be living in deprivation."*

*"They have grassroots knowledge of coalfield and former coalfield issues, both physically around dilapidation and regeneration, but also socially around capacity building, education, and upskilling and reskilling."*

---

### Room for improvement

Stakeholders made a number of suggestions for the future direction of the CRT in Scotland.

- 
- Some interviewees mentioned that the CRT in Scotland should pay more attention to existing plans (e.g. the Sustrans plan).
  - Some interviewees found that the CRT in Scotland sometimes took too much the side of communities against public agencies.
  - The CRT in Scotland should focus more on Community Asset Transfers and the development of property than it does already.
  - Transport is a main issue for coalfield communities and the CRT in Scotland should do more to support community transport.
-

## 8: Conclusion

This section draws conclusions from the evaluation findings and provides recommendations on the further development of the programmes

### Conclusions

From the study the following conclusions can be drawn.

1. Coalfield areas are still among the most deprived in Scotland, in particular for income, employment, education, health and business.
2. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit coalfield areas harder than other areas, increasing the deprivation gap.
3. The programmes delivered by the CRT in Scotland have a good fit with Scottish Government policy and strategy, in particular the CRT programmes make a significant contribution in the areas of regeneration, skills and employment and health and wellbeing.

### Community Futures

4. The CRT in Scotland has played a pivotal role in bringing communities together to produce a Local Place Plan under the Community Futures programme.
5. The Community Futures programme has engaged with all sections of the communities in worked, and more importantly, upskilled community organisations to do so themselves in the future.
6. The Community Futures programme has produced compelling evidence of the needs and wishes of communities, who can use this to draw in additional funding and resources.

### East Ayrshire Community Connections

7. Community Connections has helped to establish new organisations and strengthened existing ones.
8. Community Connections helped to make connections with previously underrepresented sections of the community and gave them a voice.

9. Community Connections has increased the capacity of the third sector to take on new and ambitious project and find the funding for them.
10. Community Connections is filling a gap in capacity building provision for community organisations.
11. Community Connections facilitated collaboration between community organisations through a series of networking events.
12. Community Connections helped to lever in additional funding in the area.
13. Community Connections has created a platform to tackle wider issues.
14. Some areas for future development of the programme include: social enterprise development, creating employment, developing community assets, accessing windfarm funding and further linking heritage and tourism to wider issues.

### Coalfield Community Investment Programme

15. The CIP was well delivered and well received by the grant recipients.
16. The combination of grant funding and practical support has built skills, confidence capacity with the recipient organisations.
17. The grants have improved coalfield communities, made them a better place to live, brought people together and forged connections with other organisations, created more volunteering opportunities and build increased capacity to undertake projects.

### Coalfields Learning Programme

18. The learning programme was well delivered and well received by the students who found the content relevant and useful.

19. The learning programme has given individuals living in coalfield areas skills and qualifications that helped them to work towards employment or increased their effectivity as a volunteer.

#### **Grow and Learn in Nature (GLiN)**

20. For most participants gardening was new, and GLiN gave them a good introduction of what benefits growing plants and food and being outdoors could bring to them.
21. The combination of masterclasses with practical skills was seen as very successful. It gave participants additional skills beyond gardening. Online delivery worked well in general.
22. Having an award at the end of the course gave participants a great sense of achievement.
23. Taking part in the GLiN programme had a positive impact on participants' physical and mental wellbeing, confidence and social interaction.
24. The GLiN programme helped people to return to normal life after the pandemic.
25. The GLiN programme had a positive effect on the communities they were delivered in. It brought the community closer together and improved the appearance of places.
26. New partnerships between organisations have been formed through the programme.
27. Participants and facilitators suggested more frequent and shorter sessions for future programmes.

#### **Coalfields Worx**

28. The programme worked with the right kind of participants: unemployed young people with significant barriers to employment.
29. Young people gained work-related and personal skills, relevant qualifications, confidence, motivation and improved mental health from the programme.
30. Coalfields Worx gave the young people the confidence and enthusiasm to turn their life around. All 15 participants moved into sustainable employment through the programme.

31. The programme has helped young people to reconnect with their communities. For some young people it was the first time they interacted with their community in a positive way.

32. The extension of the programme from 6 to 12 months was seen as very positive, and should be considered for future programmes.

#### **Game On Scotland**

33. The Game On programme is delivered well and well received by young people.
34. The combined delivery of the programme by football coaches and youth workers and sometimes involvement from Police Scotland, adds value to the programme. It provides a way for them to get to know the young people and start tackling wider issues the young people are facing.
35. Attending Game On has a positive impact on young people. They report an increase in confidence, an improvement in physical health and mental wellbeing, increased social interaction.
36. There is strong evidence that the Game On programme works well as a diversion from anti-social behaviour.
37. The Game On programme gives young people a pride in their community and strengthens their connections with it.

#### **Key stakeholder views**

38. The CRT in Scotland programmes add value to the offering of other organisations working in the coalfield areas. The expertise, resources, research, long-standing community connections that the CRT brings help them to achieve their strategic objectives.
39. Stakeholders appreciate the overview of what is happening in other coalfield areas across Scotland and the UK as hugely beneficial.
40. Stakeholders recognise that the CRT in Scotland is essential to build the capacity of coalfields organisations and communities to address their disadvantages and raising their ambitions.

41. One of the main strengths of the CRT in Scotland is their expertise and capability to engage with coalfields communities, including all sections of the community.
42. The CRT in Scotland plays the role of honest broker between public sector agencies and communities in coalfields areas.
43. Suggestions for future development include: support Community Asset Transfers, property management and community transport.
5. The Value Insight tool used for the Game On sessions should be extended to incorporate the range of additional outcomes identified.

### General

44. It is clear that the suite of programmes the CRT in Scotland run have a significant impact on reducing poverty and inequality.
45. Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the current energy and cost-of-living crises will most likely have a more detrimental effect on coalfields areas than on other areas in the country. Therefore, the CRT programmes are needed more than ever to help communities to develop the capacity to tackle their disadvantage.

## Recommendations

From the research we can make the following recommendations:

1. The CRT in Scotland should continue to look for resources to continue and extend the suite of programmes to tackle poverty and inequality in coalfields areas.
2. One of the key strengths of the work of CRT in Scotland is their ability to work with communities intensively over a longer period of time. Core funding for one year only and short term project funding is detrimental to this. CRT in Scotland should therefore aim to seek agreement for longer-term core funding (at least three years).
3. The CRT in Scotland should improve their impact measurement and collect outcome data as a matter of routine. The fieldwork materials (surveys and questionnaires) can be used as starting point.
4. The CRT in Scotland should consider extending future Coalfields Work or other Intermediate Labour Market programmes to last one year.

Find out more  
[www.socialvaluelab.org.uk](http://www.socialvaluelab.org.uk)

[info@socialvaluelab.org.uk](mailto:info@socialvaluelab.org.uk)

---

Call us on **0141 530 1479**

---



Studio 222, South Block,  
60 Osborne Street, Glasgow, G1 5QH.

---

**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:16 PM  
**To:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi Pauline

With thanks again for responding to my previous points, and with apologies for the delay in replying.

I have looked to the proposal and your additional advice to draw together the attached proposal for funding for CRT for 2023/24. This is in the context of a very strict set of financial controls that have been put in place and require us to have very clear understanding of every aspect of spend, that full consideration has been given to identify efficiencies and best value; and that we have very clear understanding of the outcomes to be delivered.

I understand that this is a different approach to how we have supported CRT grant proposals in the previous years but we will not be able to agree and approve a grant offer without the information requested.

The offer is costed at £640,376, with potential for agreement for additional budget to a total of £667,200.

There are still some areas where I have been unable to fully understand how the budget descriptions link to the programme deliverables and I have tried to set this out in the attached alongside what we can offer and any clarifications needed. This will form a budget profile template setting out the agreed budget lines and detail the associated spend for each, this will correspond to the grant claim with draw down of grant approved with appropriate reference to the evidence of expenditure held for each of the budget lines. We will continue to pay grant quarterly in arrears as we do currently.

I would be very happy to arrange a call to chat through, particularly if this will help address any areas where I have misunderstood programme deliverables/budget and to answer any questions etc you may have.

Once we have agreed on a final budget we would need to receive a final proposal from you to also include the expected deliverables and outcomes.

Many thanks

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 21 April 2023 16:30  
**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

With regards to your email please find attached response to the issues you raised.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910

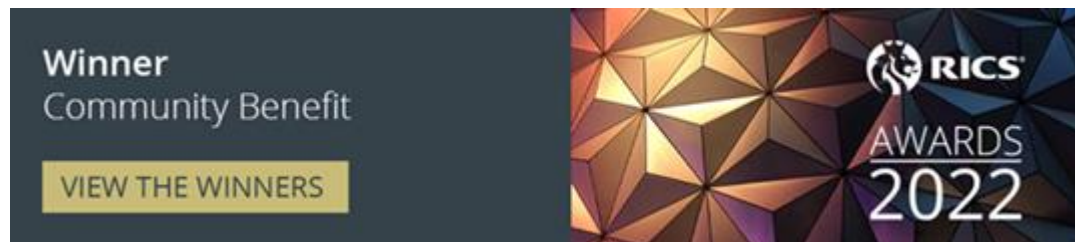


**Coalfields  
Regeneration  
Trust**

BUILDING PROSPERITY & OPPORTUNITY



**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot



*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SCO39277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 7:06 PM  
**To:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>

**Cc:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi Pauline

Thanks and apologies again for the time taken to come back to you. Thanks too for the update on SMRTs decision, appreciate this will be disappointing for you all.

Thank you for your work to develop the options in the proposal following our conversation. I have some questions in relation to the different options, the proposed activity and impact of budget availability on parts of the programme delivery, where more information will be helpful to understand what delivery can/will actually take place. I have also looked to last year's proposal to get a sense of comparison, this is difficult though as the layout for this year has reverted to the earlier format, so please excuse me if I'm asking questions which should be obvious to me.

I also need to advise that we now have additional work to do for all grants in this coming year, required as a result of the challenging financial position faced that we spoke of. This means I need to ask for an increased level of detail than I have previously, as we need to be able to evidence every aspect of grant expenditure.

An initial observation are the asset developments that formed a key part of the proposal last year to deliver six social infrastructure projects by 2025, and what we considered an important step forward in looking to sustainability and income generation do not clearly seem to feature in the options in this proposal. Given the very challenging financial position we face and the reductions in the budget that supports CRT grant, this is more critically important than ever before. I'm not completely clear but from what I can gather continuation of these projects it is only in the full budget option as part of the strategic interventions, is this the case?

The ability to create more sustainable income sources is one we have advised should be a priority for CRT, please can you say more about how you are developing your plan for sustainability and clarify how/where the projects identified in the 2022/23 proposal are reflected in the options presented as ongoing activity and tease out in more detail what would be delivered under the strategic interventions for each of the options.

The 23/24 proposal indicates a number of proposed new areas of work which we would not consider to be a priority focus, particularly if these were prioritised ahead of sustainability development. For example the development of a choir does not feel a strategically important development to focus on, there are other organisations the CRT could help to introduce to communities to deliver that type of activity, such as the British Lung Foundation.

There is reference to a project to support the development of 10 social enterprises – we recognise that the development of social enterprise is part of supporting regeneration in communities but are not clear what role CRT is taking, this we would expect to be a connecting role (as was described in the 2022 proposal) to direct developing organisations to existing enterprise agencies with the relevant expertise

and resources, rather than specific project/programme with investment from this grant and potential duplication of resource – grateful if you can say more about this.

Development of Local Place Plans – the options here vary the number of plans that may be delivered. We would be keen to understand the need/requirement/demand to develop local place plans and where it is intended these would be – for development of this kind there would need to be Local Authority buy in/engagement for a LPP to add value, are these intended for places without existing community action plans (which we understand over the years have covered the majority of main former coalfield settlements). We are not opposed to these but must be clear on the reason for development and investment in these plans – and the difference/impact/outcome that we are looking to achieve over and above what may already exist.

#### Staff posts

The 2023/34 proposal includes 6 staff posts at a total cost of £305,083, this is compared to 7 staff posts in 2022/23 at a total cost of £343k. There would seem to be a potential initial saving here however I'm unable to directly compare to last year as job titles have changed and I do not have the breakdown of costs for last year, would therefore be useful to have further detail here to understand the changes.

The number of staff posts remains the same for each of the proposed levels of budget, and helpful to understand then what the implications are from reduced budget for individual programmes – what do the associated budgets pay for/buy? For example in the CRT Place programme the budget for place plan development – what does this buy? What impact does increasing this budget directly have on the support that is available to the 3 projects in Cardowan, River Leven and Drongan?

CRT work, similarly it will be helpful to understand what the difference in the level of investment means between 50k and 80k programme funding between only being able to deliver in one community to delivering a programme across all communities. How is managed with the same staffing complement, what are the intended participation numbers? The evaluation describes a relatively low take up of the programme, is there an evidence base for increased participation to roll out?

CRT support we understand that we have been providing budget within the grant for a form of the community investment programme over a number of years. While the evaluation describes reported benefits from community organisations it does not describe what the funding was awarded for and as part of the 2022/23 report it will be helpful to have a breakdown of the awards made. We have over previous years sought to reduce the amount of the budget for this activity and instead encourage you to support organisations to apply to other funds potentially also looking to Local Authority participatory budgeting. From 2023 onwards under increased controls we cannot now provide an allocation within the grant in this way, where you use this budget to run a fund with an application process.

I'm sorry for the number of questions and happy to speak one final area I need more detail on is a break down of the core costs – the £80k for Scotland Office costs, we had anticipated that the Kincardine hub would begin to generate some income that would reduce the office costs and helpful to understand the position here, and finally

the £45k for services. I need to advise that we have been informed that our grant cannot cover insurance costs.

As mentioned very happy to speak, and please let me know if anything I've asked is unclear or helpful to explain rationale/context.

Best wishes

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 12 April 2023 12:08

**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

Thank you, I realise you are very busy.

I wanted to update you on the funding we were going to administer on behalf of Scottish Mine Restoration Trust.

Unfortunately this is not going to happen as SMRT have decided that they are funding projects directly.

CRT are disappointed in this decision as SMRT had previously agreed to CRT providing the administration and were going to develop an environmental funding programme that would have benefitted our communities.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910





*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SC039277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 12 April 2023 10:28  
**To:** Pauline Grandison  
**Subject:** Re: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi Pauline

I'm well thanks and hope you are too. I'm so sorry, I have been working through the proposal and evaluation hoping to get back to you before some planned leave but have been battling a particularly busy financial year end. I expect to get a fuller reply to you by close today or tomorrow morning.

Sorry again i appreciate the time sensitivity especially as we are now into the new financial year.

Bw

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

---

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 05 April 2023 09:16  
**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

I hope you are well.

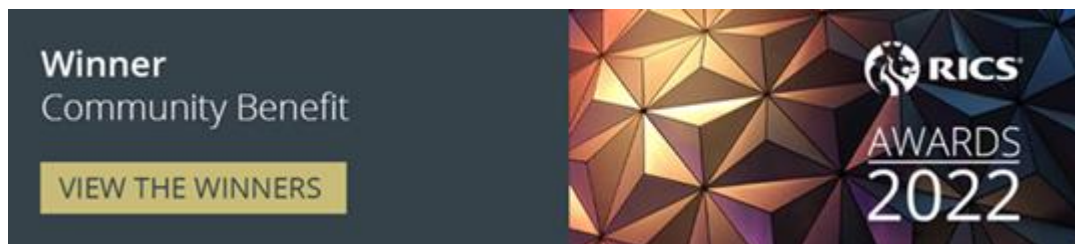
It would be appreciated if you could advise me if you have had time to consider the budgets I sent you.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910



*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SC039277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 February 2023 18:52  
**To:** Pauline Grandison  
**Cc:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis; Gary Porter  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi Pauline

Many thanks for sending the proposal and evaluation, I'll review and get back to you as soon as I can.

Best wishes

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 20 February 2023 10:24

**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>

**Subject:** CRT Budget Proposals

Hi [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

Hope you are well.

Further to our meeting please find attached proposed budgets for your consideration.

The Evaluation has now been completed and a copy is attached.

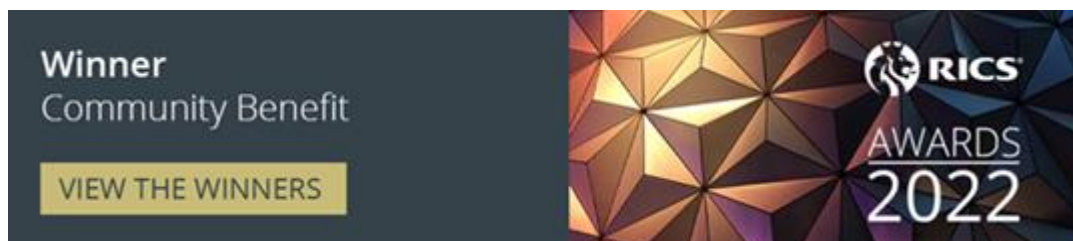
I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910



*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SC039277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire,*

S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

*This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

*This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

*This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.*

## **SG offer of up to £667,200k for CRT proposal 2023/24**

SG's proposed offer will support the funding of the current staff in post:

Head of Ops	£85,755
Community Engagement Officer x2 @ £41,335	£82,670
Community Connector Officer	£31,846
Development Manager (Regen)	£53,988
Training & Learning Officer	£50,824

### **Offer of budget £305,083**

We note that the salary costs for all posts have increased by 17 -18% compared with the last available breakdown of salaries provided in 2021/22. It is noted that increase for the CCLP Development Manager is not covered in the contract with the Council who are the lead funder for this post. We would expect CRT negotiate the salary with the funder in the first instance and consider how the provision of funding across staff posts supported by different funders is addressed in overall HR policies. SG cannot be expected to meet shortfalls in staff costs contracted with other funders.

### **The following sets out the proposed offer of grant against the programmes described within the CRT proposal**

#### **CRT Place**

Deliver Local Place Plans in 3 places, these should be where there is a clear ask from the community for support to deliver an LPP and where possible helpful if in considering where to direct support an approach from a community that corresponds with a priority area regeneration initiative would be welcome. We would expect the delivery of LPP to include the offer of time allocated for assistance to support project delivery (that is described in the £750k proposal) as the resource staff time is fully funded and should be available regardless of the level of programme budget allocated. The development of an LPP and realisation of the plan may be best achieved where there is engagement with the LA. The LPP may be adopted within the LDP which will inform planning decisions and helpful to understand how the fits within the LA's current LDP delivery/development schedule and whether there is mutual interest in developing a LPP – to maximise potential for development and investment. We will require updates on the communities being selected for support as this happens.

**Offer budget up to £13k** – develop place plans, does this budget also include community engagement costs to deliver the work in Cardowan etc that are included in the deliverables for the CRT Place programme?

#### **CRT Support**

We can no longer provide a budget for onward distribution through an application process – therefore no budget allocated for Community Investment Programme. This will however free up time of the Community Engagement Officer and Community Connector to ensure that the 3 place projects in Cardowan, River Leven and Drongan are fully supported – as time resource was identified as an/the issue.

An indicative budget is offered for delivery of strategic interventions which we understand the Regeneration Development Manager leads on. The deliverability of this work is noted to be impacted by the availability of staff time, and with this offer covering all the staff posts which SG support, it is for CRT to plan how that resource is deployed to ensure that the appropriate staff resource is in place to deliver against the priorities, SG consider regeneration and income generation are key priorities.

Further information detailing the projects to be supported by strategic interventions is needed to ensure that the projects/activity will comply with the new grant management and financial control conditions and that there are clear outcomes. These should prioritise, as indicated in the proposal, support to income generation and area regeneration. Budget allocation will be confirmed following receipt / approval of project proposals.

In this offer we will support the delivery of the network and further detail is required on what the budget covers, frequency of meetings and what CRT is doing to support efficiency in the delivery of the network/ costs, such as virtual meetings, reducing printing etc.

**Offer budget £10,293k** for the network

**Offer £110k** Strategic Interventions

### **CRT Regeneration**

This heading is only listed within the budget there is not a corresponding programme deliverable, the budget items cover the Regeneration Development Manager and delivery costs for CRTworx, which is described within the Engage, Training and Learning Programme. It will be helpful to align programme delivery headings with the corresponding budgets for clarity, this will support clearer progress and financial reporting.

### **CRT Engage, Training and Learning**

A clearer explanation of the budget for this programme would be helpful. The associated budget differs by £2k between the £700k and £750k proposal and the only clearly attributable activity for the difference is the social enterprise support, as CRT worx and sports worx both have separate budgets.

Delivery of SQA qualifications and vocational skills courses – 2 per month and outreach. The final version of the CRT proposal should include in the outcomes an indication of how many individuals you expect to engage, any plans for increasing take up (assuming that the main base for this activity is the Kincardine hub) and details on outreach, where will this be delivered how often, expected numbers.

We will provide support for the delivery of the CRT worx programme, however we would be grateful for clarity on how this budget is spent, including the nature of the partnership arrangement with BRAG and The Zone, are there formal contracts in place/partnership agreement, have contracts been awarded following a tender, is VAT paid? The final proposal should indicate how many young people and which communities will be engaged in the programme in 2023/24. If the employability programmes are delivered by the contracted organisations what specifically is the role of CRT? You have advised that the Regeneration Development Manager leads

this programme but it seems the number of communities that can be delivered in is also dependent on the level of match funding from the partners – what is this for 2023/24? An indicative budget of £50k is allocated, we will need to see the evidence to support this level of spend, that the appropriate contracting arrangements are in place with the delivery organisations and for any additional budget the match is in place. We understand the value of these types of programmes and the proposal demonstrates that there are already providers in place - what gap is CRT addressing? Any additional funding for this programme will be considered on the basis of the further information requested and understanding of the value for money. We would note that both of these community organisations applied to the ICF and have been recommended for support to deliver projects identified as the priority in these areas.

CRT Sports worx - expansion of the programme is suggested with a budget request of £12k, it is unclear if this funding is required to provide support to continue the existing programme or just the expansion, please clarify.

Social Enterprise development – it is unclear what the need for a budget is for this work. CRT's role is described as encouraging and supporting engagement with the delivery of the actual learning being provided by the School for Social Entrepreneurs, who deliver programmes at 3 different levels which are provided free of charge. The support presumably comes from an already funded staff post. We would expect that with full funding for the staff posts and perhaps scaled down delivery of CRTworx there is scope to encourage and support the 10 organisations to engage in the SSE programmes and signpost them to other supports as they gain confidence, without the requirement for additional budget. A full explanation of what any additional budget would buy would be required.

There is a budget identified for capacity building / training £15k – what activities within the plan does this budget link to and what costs does it cover?

**Offer of budget £50k CRT Worx**

**Offer of budget £12k** – CRT Sports worx (to absorb £800 costs for the Coach – alternatively CRT can reduce this budget to provide support to provide the £2k required to support the social enterprise programme – a breakdown of what these costs cover will be required.)

**Offer of budget £15k** capacity building and training with further info

### **Connecting Communities**

The Coalfields Community Landscape Partnership (CCLP), is a project funded by East Ayrshire Council and a small amount of funding has previously been provided by the SG grant to supplement the salary of the post. We would expect this to be negotiated with the primary funder in the first instance. Progress on this project stalled fairly significantly last year with 2 key elements on hold and not progressing. The proposal for 2023/24 requests £21k match funding. What is this for, what progress can be expected in the delivery of the hub and the bike station, what discussion has CRT had with the Council as the funder for this project regarding increased budget and salary costs? When is the project set to end / complete?

We are not inclined to provide match to this project without assurance from CRT and the Council that the project will move forward.

**Core costs**

**Scotland Office Costs £80k**

**Quality/shared services/HR Finance £45k**

As requested a breakdown of these costs is required, whilst these have been agreed previously as a total we now must provide a full breakdown and identify where any efficiencies can be made.

**Total offered £640,376**

We may provide additional funding of £26,824 for match to CCLP and the Development Manager costs with explanation/assurance of this funding.

## **Response to Scottish Government**

***An initial observation are the asset developments that formed a key part of the proposal last year to deliver six social infrastructure projects by 2025, and what we considered an important step forward in looking to sustainability and income generation do not clearly seem to feature in the options in this proposal. Given the very challenging financial position we face and the reductions in the budget that supports CRT grant, this is more critically important than ever before. I'm not completely clear but from what I can gather continuation of these projects it is only in the full budget option as part of the strategic interventions, is this the case?***

### **Scotland and CRT Sustainability challenges**

In response to your email dated 12 April 2023 and the points you raised about CRT sustainability and income generation and progress made the position is as follows:

As we have discussed on numerous occasions CRT believes in the long term model of sustainability it has successfully developed after exiting with both revenue support and substantial capital investment from the UK Government at the beginning of the last decade. We believe this aligns perfectly with the Scottish Governments commitment to levelling up Scotland's former mining communities and the community wealth building (CWB) model.

The model of investing in smaller commercial/industrial workspace in communities where there is a clear gap in private sector investment and the need to strengthen the local economy and support business enterprise makes excellent economic sense. It also has the added benefit and USP of then using the resulting income stream for investment in communities that desperately need the type of support and approach delivered by CRT.

The CRT has now a clear track record in this type of investment and delivery of funding for our hard pressed communities. However, although CRT's risk reward profile differs from the private sector and our innovative and flexible approach distinguishes us from statutory bodies there are still some basic investment principles that need to stack up.

On our major developments to date there have been incentives available to ensure the end result is a positive income stream that rewards the level of risk CRT is willing to take. These incentives have mainly come in the form of capital grant and/or a favourable land value reflecting that often this land has laid dormant for decades.

Two years of the pandemic has without doubt meant progress in this area has inevitably been delayed at a time when the needs of our more deprived communities has increased.

To compound the issue the change in the economic environment both in terms of construction inflation and bank borrowing costs is unprecedented in living memory.

The CRT's investment funding model also includes a prudent level of bank borrowing. Over the last 12 month the interest rate on CRT borrowings has increased from 3.59% to 7.14%. A full year effect of this during the current financial year will be in the region of an additional £700k in interest payments.

It also has the effect of increasing the hurdle rate before investment in development sites can be brought forward. This inevitably requires gap funding contribution alongside other incentives referred to earlier.

In summary CRT is still progressing investment opportunities however, in the majority of former mining community sites this will require direct support to turn CWB approach to economic development into a reality.

Therefore to move toward sustainability in Scotland over the medium term will require a different approach to the current model of annual grant settlements which are predominantly for revenue based activities and for 25 years have never incorporated a sustainability profile.

This does not form part of the Strategic Intervention budget.

Our SI and Special Projects is a budget for direct community investment. These investments are a catalyst for our programmes and without this projects that directly benefit our communities would not happen.

***The 23/24 proposal indicates a number of proposed new areas of work which we would not consider to be a priority focus, particularly if these were prioritised ahead of sustainability development. For example the development of a choir does not feel a strategically important development to focus on; there are other organisations the CRT could help to introduce to communities to deliver that type of activity, such as the British Lung Foundation.***

This type of project would hit CRT's strategic outcome of Health & Wellbeing. The project was only an idea which came out of discussions with community groups, but would have been investigated further and we would not duplicate work of other organisations.

***There is reference to a project to support the development of 10 social enterprises – we recognise that the development of social enterprise is part of supporting regeneration in communities but are not clear what role CRT is taking, this we would expect to be a connecting role (as was described in the 2022 proposal) to direct developing organisations to existing enterprise agencies with the relevant expertise and resources, rather than specific project/programme with investment from this grant and potential duplication of resource – grateful if you can say more about this.***

CRT is working in partnership with School for Social Entrepreneurs Scotland to deliver a Sustainable Communities programme.

Although there are other organisations that we can connect our community organisations to we want to ensure that our communities receive support from CRT as we are the organisation that our communities trust and see as someone who understands the problems these communities face. We are working with groups that we have supported over a number of years and who do not see themselves as Social Enterprises and with our encouragement and support they can now see their potential. With this partnership we are providing patient and attentive guidance and encouragement which is at the fore of what we do. Other agencies do not provide this level of support and understanding to our communities.

We do not have a large number of Social Enterprises in our more rural areas and community organisations do not have the confidence to work with other agencies that may be based in Glasgow or Edinburgh.

We want to continue to provide development support to these communities together with others to grow their Social Enterprises.

These Social Enterprises support Community Wealth Building in our communities by providing a sustainable and inclusive way of generating economic and social value, which can help to create positive change in communities that have experienced decline or neglect.

We are supporting job creation as these Social Enterprises will be providing employment opportunities for people who face barriers to entering the job market, such as those who are long-term unemployed or have disabilities.

The Social Enterprises are also supporting community engagement as they are involving local people in their activities through volunteering, training, or purchasing their products or services.

The CRT Sustainability Programme in partnership with School for Social Entrepreneurs will create opportunity for people from within communities where the needs are highest, to realise their strengths and to build their agency as socially driven entrepreneurs. The programme uses new ways to establish the mind-set needed for business viability and sustained impact, so that social entrepreneurs in Scotland can rise to the challenges of the post- Covid world.

The programme addresses three different types of need;

1. The need to build power and agency in communities to achieve vibrant economies and confident and skilled leaders in the post-Covid period.

How the programme will meet this need: The programme has been designed to make a significant contribution to addressing the needs of communities, community champions and entrepreneurs to strengthen their organisations and impact.

2. The need to provide the right type of finance that helps social entrepreneurs build sustainability.

Social entrepreneurs tell us that they need finance which is effective in helping them achieve what they want to achieve and reduces their dependency.

"Too many grants are narrowly focused on solving existing problems instead of financing potential solutions and applications" (SSE survey respondent, 2022)

"We need to increase our trading income to be less reliant on funding and more resilient" (SSE survey respondent, 2022)

3. The need to deliver genuinely useful learning which helps Community Champions realise their strengths.

By working in partnership with SSE CRT will help to increase the impact of the Scottish Government's Social Enterprise Strategy and Action Plan:

The programme plays a key role in growing the social enterprise movement in our coalfield communities and will contribute to the Scottish Government's shared vision for social enterprise by:

Stimulating social enterprise:

- Reach social enterprises in CRT communities across Scotland to take part in the programme.
- Mobilise social enterprise networks and support innovative social enterprises across coalfield communities at 'growth' stages.

Developing stronger organisations:

- Offer social enterprises a free, evidence-based programme of business support and a grant to develop skills, entrepreneurial mind-sets and resilience.
- Facilitate peer learning and network building
- Realising market opportunities
- Equip participants with the skills and connections they need to reach new consumers, business customers and corporate supply chains.

2. Provide a unique blend of learning and support that is not offered by other support providers in Scotland

Working in partnership with SSE we can offer a long-duration, action-led approach to enterprise. Supporting those closest to injustice to become better leaders. Many of the social entrepreneurs we support are from marginalised and deprived communities. Many have direct 'lived' experience of the problem they are tackling with their enterprise.

Connect coalfields social entrepreneurs with a network of change makers

Upon completion of the Programme, participants will join SSE's thriving network of Fellows (programme alumni) for ongoing support and networking. Participants will have access to:

- A UK-wide movement of passionate leaders, connected via 4 x Fellows' networking events each year, hosted online and/ or rotated around the UK.
- SSE Fellows' networking platform bespoke funding opportunities and follow-on training and support.

Leadership opportunities - SSE invites Fellows to act as recruitment assessors and programme speakers, supporting them to become participatory partners in the future success of the programme and sector.

***Development of Local Place Plans – the options here vary the number of plans that may be delivered. We would be keen to understand the need/requirement/demand to develop local place plans and where it is intended these would be – for development of this kind there would need to be Local Authority buy in/engagement for a LPP to add value, are these intended for places without existing community action plans (which we understand over the years have covered the majority of main former***

***coalfield settlements). We are not opposed to these but must be clear on the reason for development and investment in these plans – and the difference/impact/outcome that we are looking to achieve over and above what may already exist.***

CRT is very encouraged by the push from Scottish Government to promote equality and have ALL communities fulfil their potential. This is reflected in the Scottish Governments Fourth National Planning Framework: position statement

‘The Scottish Government is committed to promoting equality, tackling discrimination and fostering good relations between people in all of our communities. We want to ensure that every person and every community in our country is able to achieve their full potential. The changes we are making to the planning system aim to strengthen public trust and encourage engagement in decisions about the future of our places. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduces local place plans. Linked to the NPF and local development plans they will provide the opportunity for communities to influence the development of their neighbourhoods in a way which builds on community empowerment across Scotland. These and wider changes also underline the importance of engaging with a wider range of people to develop our places, including children and young people.’

## **Need**

As CRT work within the most deprived areas, we want to ensure that our communities are empowered to participate in the development of their Local Place Plans, which will ultimately ensure they can greatly improve the quality of their places as well as increasing the social and physical wellbeing of their community.

We recognise the importance of communities having Community Action Plans that help them lobby for better services, prove the need to access funding and give community bodies the mandate from their community on what issues need tackled to improve the lives of local people.

These action plans have proved to be a powerful tool for many communities in helping improve service provision and to help secure external funding to increase the resources available for people locally and for some, it may be all that is required.

We recognise though that if a community has a need to set out proposals for the development and use of land with a desire to influence the planning department and create something that can be used as material considerations in planning applications, then that community will benefit most from creating a Local Place Plan.

In the realm of local government planning when it comes to development and/or conservation of land, CRT is committed to working with communities to identify not only community priorities, for short and medium term action but also longer term visioning. How do they see their communities develop in the future, capture that and make it known to Local Authority Planning departments for consideration when reviewing and updating their Local Development Plans.

With this in mind we are working with communities to create Local Place Plans with an Appendix outlining their priorities for community action. These plans can help communities

by acting as Local Place Plans as well as Community Action Plans. These new community led plans will go under the title 'Our Place – Our Plan'

We are also finding that, since the Local Place Plan has come into being, even more than ever, communities are approaching CRT directly, requesting our support.

### **Requirement**

The Fourth National Planning Framework is different to NPF3. It has increased status and is part of the statutory development plan, meaning that its policies have a stronger role in day-to-day planning decision making. NPF4 incorporates updated Scottish Planning Policy, containing detailed national policy on a number of planning topics. For the first time, spatial and thematic planning policies are addressed in one place.

If a Local Place Plan is produced, the Local Authority will place it on a register of Local Place Plans and will take its content into account during the development of the next Local Development Plan. We're inviting communities to prepare Local Place Plans so that they can play a proactive role in defining the future of their places. It's important for them to have an understanding of this and we see this as one of our roles in supporting some of the communities in greatest need and who require access to the necessary support to help close the inequality gap in Scotland's communities.

### **Demand**

If any community wants to have input into their Local Development Plan then their Local Place Plan is the vehicle to do this, unlike an Action Plan which has no statutory recognition.

Over the year 22/23 we have been working in Clackmannan, Clackmannanshire, Benarty & Crossgates, Fife, Tillicoultry, Coalsnaughton & Devonside, Clackmannashire and Gorebridge, Midlothian. We have been working along with the Local Authorities in these areas including the planning department to ensure that with these new plans, the correct policies and procedures are in place to warrant their validation and registration with the respective planning departments. These community led plans are currently being finalised.

To date we have been approached by Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire, Bo'Ness, Falkirk, Glenboig, North Lanarkshire, Kincardine & Cardenden, Fife. All these communities have been in contact with CRT to request their support.

We have also been approached by a community out with our eligible areas, although we are unable to offer a full support package we have been able to provide them with the Place Standard Toolkit resources we have on a free loan basis. We are also able to signpost to other information and agencies such as [www.ourplace.scot](http://www.ourplace.scot) and Planning Aid Scotland.

Each Local Authority has different deadlines for registration/validation of their Local Place Plans dependant on their Local Development Plan review dates. It would be our intention to prioritise communities in line with their Local Authority deadline.

### **Partnerships**

During the lock down period of Covid 19 we developed an engaging and interactive Place Standard Toolkit in the form of an exhibition style resource to enable a place based

assessment by our communities and this included an on line engagement platform to increase the reach, recognising the impact of Covid and the significant reduction in people attending live events.

<https://crt-tcd.virtual-engage.com/>

During this time we worked in collaboration with Public Health Scotland and were asked to showcase this work to the Place and Wellbeing Alliance membership. This Zoom workshop was very well attended by Local Authorities and has enabled us to strengthen our relationship with them in relation to place based initiatives. The great advantage of working with the Place Standard is that it has created a common language around community engagement and with each local authority have a Place Standard Champion, CRT have found this to be a positive influence in developing working partnerships across our communities.

The most important partnerships we have are with the communities that we serve and our strength lies in the fact that put consistent effort into building long term, positive working relationships with community members, groups and organisations and do our best to see that their needs are met. Cllr Ellen Scott from Gorebridge highlights this in this video clip made at their recent community consultation <https://bit.ly/Gorebridge>

### **Working Together with Local Authorities in Former Coalmining Areas**

We understand that for some Local Authorities there is a lack of resources to enable them to support communities to develop Local Place Plans and we are working together with them to help address this need within the CRT communities.

#### **Fife Council**

Our Place Standard Toolkit has been utilised by Fife Council as part of their Buckhaven Neighbourhood Plan Community regeneration project to develop a neighbourhood plan. We supported this by providing our resources as part of an in person Place Standard Tool with a Climate Lens session held focusing on a community facing multiple deprivation. Sniffer facilitated this session.

Cowdenbeath Area Place Leadership Group which includes planners, roads, area managers and CLD workers invited CRT to showcase our Place Standard toolkit and how it can be used in their community engagement activities. Feedback was very positive especially around the professional design and ease of use of the resources.

#### **North Lanarkshire Council**

North Lanarkshire also used our Place Standard toolkit as part of their engagement in the Shotts Community Board area. The following is an extract taken from their evaluation report:

Rationale - Public Health Scotland funded a series of three community engagement events using the Place Standards Tool Place Standard within the Shotts Community Board area. The aim was to gather intelligence and data which would enhance localised decision making and to correlate this data with the Shotts Local Outcome Improvement Plan and other community planning structures.

## **Midlothian Council**

As a result of working with Gorebridge Community Council and Gorebridge Development Trust to develop a Local Place Plan, we were approached by Midlothian Council CLD to help deliver training to the community councils in the Midlothian area in relation use of the Place Standard tool and the creation of Local Place Plans.

### **Giving Communities a voice**

One of the big issues for people in Gorebridge is lack of a local High School and from the work we carried out together the community council were able to produce a spatial report on this key priority to help them communicate the voice of the community at a special meeting held with Midlothian Council.

### **Supporting further Place Standard Development**

Through our relationship with Public Health Scotland CRT we were invited to be part of the Advisory Group helping in the development of The Place Standard Tool Inclusive Communication Toolkit. This is a guide with practical tools to help include more people in Place Standard engagement activities. The toolkit will help everyone who is involved in planning and running a Place Standard assessment session with any group of people or community.

The toolkit offers

- A step-by-step guide to providing a face-to-face communication inclusive Place Standard experience
- Practical resources

You can access the toolkit here <https://www.ourplace.scot/place-standard-tool-inclusive-communication-toolkit>

### **Difference - Impact - Outcome**

The key factor of the Local Place Plan is to give the community an opportunity to define a vision for its future' - 'what do we want to be in 2045?'

The NPF4 highlights policies that need to be considered for their local relevance and identified by the community in terms of their geography, for example

Suggesting climate change mitigation strategies based on local knowledge.

To support 'net zero' housing in appropriate locations.

Also, how do we develop a thriving 20 minute neighbourhood and what planning changes are required to the High Street to encourage more facilities such as shops, cafes, toilets etc.?

'To encourage, promote and facilitate the application of the Place Principle and create connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably by walking, wheeling or cycling or using sustainable transport options.' NPF4 Policy 15

For instance, in Clackmannan, which has the desire to become a cycling/walking hub linking to heritage and tourism requires planning changes to improve and add to the existing cycle network. Having a Local Place Plan can inform the Local Authority of this vision and help the community to deliver on it. Without registering a Local Place Plan the community are leaving it up to the planners to decide their future which could make a significant difference to how the community develops in the future.

CRT are committed to making communities aware of the empowerment that Local Place Plans/Action Plans can have and that the new National Planning Framework exists, helping communities to deliver a sustainable future for themselves and their families. Our former coalmining communities, many isolated and looking to re- imagine their future in order to survive, they need help to understand these changes. Not helped by the timing of things and that major changes in Planning legislation have come into effect just as Covid was hitting the country. There is a lot of catching up to be done, a lot of engagement, a lot of capacity building and we see that without help our communities could get left behind.

One of the great strengths of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust is our ability to help communities have a voice and communicate their needs using the tools that the Scottish Government have invested in and developed to enable this to happen. Our ability to work hand in hand with local authorities and other agencies using a place based approach of community engagement for regeneration and community wealth building is something we see as part of our mission.

### **Staff posts**

***The 2023/34 proposal includes 6 staff posts at a total cost of £305,083, this is compared to 7 staff posts in 2022/23 at a total cost of £343k. There would seem to be a potential initial saving here however I'm unable to directly compare to last year as job titles have changed and I do not have the breakdown of costs for last year, would therefore be useful to have further detail here to understand the changes.***

Programme Manager should have been named as Development Manager and Development Officers as Community Engagement Officers these have always been job titles for these positions.

Training and Learning Officer is a new position. Admin position changed to Community Connector due to previous employee leaving.

When previous Head of Operations left the position was filled with staff member who was previously a Development Manager. The vacant position is not being filled.

Head of Operations Scotland – still same

2 x Programme Manager – Development Manager now reduced to 1 position

1 x Learning Manager – Training and Learning Officer

2 x Development Officers – 2 Community Engagement Officers

1 x Admin – This position was changed to Community Connector

***The number of staff posts remains the same for each of the proposed levels of budget, and helpful to understand then what the implications are from reduced budget for individual programmes – what do the associated budgets pay for/buy? For example in the CRT Place programme the budget for place plan development – what does this buy? What impact does increasing this budget directly have on the support that is available to the 3 projects in Cardowan, River Leven and Drongan?***

The Development Manager manages Place Based Regeneration together with the Coalfields Worx programme which has a budget that we invest into partners who deliver this programme. Manages Training and Learning Officer to develop a substantial training programme that addresses the needs of our communities.

Community Engagement Officer and Community Connector deliver Place based regeneration;

- Developing Local Place Plans/Action Plans
- community engagement activities and events
- River Leven project which involves community engagement activities and events relating to the Behaviour Change Action Plan developed in conjunction with the River Leven Connectivity project which is being delivered by a number of partners.
- Project development support to Cardowan.
- The budget covers a large number of consultation events, hall hire, meeting room hire, design and printing of Local Place Plans/Action Plans, Place Standard resources, resources for mapping exercises, leaflets, and flyers.

With a reduction in budget we would not be able to carryout the number of community engagement activities that are required in order to gather comprehensive information to develop communities Local Place Plans/Action Plans, together with the activities and project development activities in Levenmouth and Cardowan.

Community Engagement Officer – Administers Community Investment Programme. Also provides support to groups to access other funding sources. Provides Community Asset development support to organisations. Provides support to the groups that are participating in the Sustainable Communities programme. Provides support to Regeneration Manager on Kincardine Regeneration project.

Training & Learning Officer – Budget required to deliver training which is identified within our communities. Source training providers. Deliver SQA qualifications.

With a reduction in the Training & Learning budget we would not be able to deliver such a comprehensive programme of Training and Learning opportunities for the members of our communities.

***CRT worx, similarly it will be helpful to understand what the difference in the level of investment means between 50k and 80k programme funding between only being able to deliver in one community to delivering a programme across all communities. How is managed with the same staffing complement, what are the intended participation numbers? The evaluation describes a relatively low take up of the programme, is there an evidence base for increased participation to roll out?***

CRT Worx – roll out across former coalfield communities – this should have stated roll out across other coalfield communities, apologies.

CRT is the lead organisation and we work in partnership with BRAG Enterprises in Fife as well as The Zone in East Ayrshire who deliver the programme. CRT Regeneration Manager manages this programme and would be able to manage a number of Coalfields Worx being delivered in our communities.

Our partners match the investment that we make by providing training, with participants undertaking a range of environmental maintenance jobs coupled with skills and qualifications and employability support to move into employment, education or training.

The higher level of investment would enable us to work in a number of communities. The number would be dependant on the level of match funding that our partner organisations would be able to provide to support the programme.

#### Evidence

We are working with young people who are furthest from the job market and face other problems within their family background; some of them are 4th generation unemployed. These are the most vulnerable young people in our communities who if they did not join our employability programmes would still be unemployed and claiming benefits.

#### Deprivation in Scottish Coalfield Communities Report

- Nearly 40 per cent of coalfield DZs fall within the worst 30 per cent across Scotland in terms of employment deprivation
- Two-thirds of all coalfield DZs have employment deprivation above the Scottish average
- Two-thirds of all coalfield DZs have levels of educational disadvantage above the Scottish average
- 40 per cent of coalfield DZs fall into the worst 20 per cent
- Only 8 per cent of coalfield DZs come into the 20 per cent least educationally disadvantaged in Scotland
- By creating work opportunities for young people in rural communities we are addressing rural depopulation.
- Boosting local economy: When young people have work opportunities, they earn a steady income, which they can spend locally. This helps to boost the local economy by increasing demand for goods and services, thereby creating a multiplier effect.
- Reducing poverty: Rural areas often experience higher levels of poverty compared to urban areas. Creating work opportunities for young people can help to reduce poverty by providing them with a source of income, which can improve their quality of life.
- This project is even more important now due to the high unemployment levels and lack of job opportunities in coalfield communities since to the pandemic.

Although numbers appear to be low over the 4 years of the programme with CRT investment of £350,000 there has been a total \*social value return on investment of £471,000.

The programme to date has seen 3 Supervisor roles created, resulting in FT employment and also 15 paid FT trainee positions. A total of 18 Jobs have been created through the programme. This has created a \*social value return on investment of £209,000

The people securing the roles had significant barriers to employment, ranging from criminal justice pasts to lack of employment experience and addiction issues. The intensive support the programme delivered by far was a major influence in them securing employment upon completion of the Coalfields Worx programme.

The 18 participants also received vocational training and job related training whilst on the programme and as well as assisting them to progress it can also show a \*social value return on investment of £129,000

As well as the participants being the direct beneficiaries of the programme the local communities and areas they serviced have also benefited and we can show these also through a social value return.

Improvement on Green Space\* and Maintenance of Local Area\* - social value return would be £133,000.

The above figures show a total social value return on investment of 18 people moving into FT employment , various vocational related training interventions (as mentioned above) as well as the wider communities having a positive impact in them through the work carried out .

There has also been a 100% success rate with the young people going on to fulltime employment.

The number of trainees would vary dependant on the partner we are working with being able to attract additional investment for these positions. We would have one supervisor in each area together with at least 3 trainees.

\*The values used to determine Social Impact have been taken from HACT – UK Social Value Bank. <https://hact.org.uk/tools-and-services/uk-social-value-bank/>

### **Coalfields Worx - Case Studies**

This young person taken on through this programme was heavily into smoking cannabis, anti-social behaviour and alcohol, dad a heroin addict, mum serious mental health problem three siblings one with a disability.

He had never seen anyone within his family work and they were all masking their issues caused by abuse and his self-esteem, confidence and ability to trust adults was shattered. When we advertised for the trainees he came forward with his mother to request a place. It was felt that he was ideal for the project and was taken on. Over his time he has worked hard and gained a variety of training certificates. The mentor saw such potential in him and worked hard to gain trust in this young person. Over the months his confidence and abilities grew he was mentoring younger people that had just started their journey. His leadership skills shone through as he grew in confidence. Taking lead on many team projects has been one of the highlights of his time with the project.

He gained a full time job with the Coalfields Worx team who are developing projects alongside Community Coalfield Landscape Partnership. We are very proud of how far this young person has come and check in every week to ensure he is doing well. He no longer engages in any of the above traits. A local business man has asked to pay for a chain saw training course for him to allow the possibility to become a tree surgeon over the next year.

We asked this young person how he felt the project helped him " I would have been a drug addict if I had not enter into the training and would never hold down a job ever" what was his highlights " being recognised in the local gazette for all the hard work in the village "he said "people had a different view of me they did not think I was a waster any more".

These quotes for us say it all. He was never a waster just a victim of circumstance but supporting young people shows they can change their lives around for the better.

This young person has recently gained full time employment with a substantial wage that has allowed him to pass his driving test and look to a brighter future.

This young person's story is a bit harder than some of the rest due to the sheer barrier that has had to be faced in their young life already. Living with 2 other sibling and two parents had substance abuse issues brought on from traumatic childhood experiences both parents had suffered parental neglect, suicide of one parent and sexual abuse.

This YP was part of the education system however due to circumstances did not have great attendance and had a reduced time table of 2hrs per week therefore this inability to read and write for this YP was missed. Hiding the barriers became the norm and many interventions with the local police had become more frequent. This YP was referred to the project from a guidance teacher who knew that time and effort could be spent developing this young person future and aspirations.

On joining the CRT program the choice was to become one of the outdoor team which worked in and around the local community providing garden maintenance for older people, developing walks and paths for the community and taking on interesting project that were hands on. The YP developed a good rapport with the mentor/supervisor who on many occasion has highlighted the good work and attention to detail put into every job this YP tackles.

Over the last months this YP has just achieved community recognition within a local newspaper local gazette and twitter for the job they were involved in for a disabled member of the community, they have also just passed their level 1 construction card which has been paid for by our partners RJ McLeod. They have also trained the outdoor team visually due to literacy problems. This YP over the next 6 months will complete the second part of this card and hopefully through our contact become an employee of Vattenfall we are extremely proud of the progress made by this YP and will keep pushing him to his full potential.

We asked this YP what difference did he feel over the last 6 month and his reply was " if I had not got on the scheme I think I would be in jail. I love my job because I do not feel any pressure I know I can do good for older people and I like feeling that" . From the beginning of the programme this YP has excelled we can only see great achievements for them and will continue to work hard to ensure he achieves his goals.

***CRT support we understand that we have been providing budget within the grant for a form of the community investment programme over a number of years. While the evaluation describes reported benefits from community organisations it does not describe what the funding was awarded for and as part of the 2022/23 report it will be helpful to have a breakdown of the awards made. We have over previous years sought to reduce the amount of the budget for this activity and instead encourage you to support organisations to apply to other funds potentially also looking to Local Authority participatory budgeting. From 2023 onwards under increased controls we cannot now provide an allocation within the grant in this way, where you use this budget to run a fund with an application process.***

We recognise that grants alone are not a solution for coalfield communities, but find this disappointing that you are not supporting a budget for us to run our Community Investment Programme.

We do encourage and support small voluntary and community groups to expand their scope, build new partnerships, and tackle more ambitious projects within their communities.

CRT target the most remote/marginalised communities and provide support to help build the capacity of organisations in our former coalfield areas.

Through working with our communities we know that the groups we work with find it difficult to access funding from other sources and that is why they approach CRT for support.

Alloa Saints FC	Coach Training	£2,805
Getting Better Together	Get Active Get Going	£3,000
Netherthird Initiative for Community Empowerment	Project Coordinator Salary	£3,000
East Arshire Coalfield Environment Initiative	Forest School Training	£1,888
Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust	Volunteer training	£1,430
Milton All Stars FC	Coach development	£2,450
Kelty Primary School Parent Forum	Outdoor Gathering Area	£3,509
Craigmark Burntonians FC	Clubhouse & Pitch renovations	£3,230
Clackmannan Bowling Club	Windows Replacement	£3,000
Lugar Parish Church	Heritage & Information Centre	£4,162
Bannockburn and Eastern Villages Community Hub	Groundwork and Reseeding Sports Pitch	£3,500
Lumphinnans Bowling Club	Changing Room Replacement	£4,000
Wee County Men's Shed	Workshop Dust Extraction	£3,000
Lochgelly Band	Band Hall Regeneration	£3,000
Kelty Musical Association	Scenery	£2,710
Cowdenbeath Martial Arts	Training facility improvements	£2,875
Sauchie Amateur FC	Pavilion upgrade	£3,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£50,559.00</b>

Overspend was covered by return of previous CIP grant.

***core costs – the £80k for Scotland Office costs, we had anticipated that the Kincardine hub would begin to generate some income that would reduce the office costs and helpful to understand the position here, and finally the £45k for services. I need to advise that we have been informed that our grant cannot cover insurance costs.***

Unfortunately the Hub has not been able to generate the level of income we would have liked.

The pandemic has had an impact on people looking to utilise the building. With people still working from home they are not looking for office space to rent. Also there are few community organisations within the area looking for space to hire.

A Marketing Plan has been produced and we are putting into action recommendations from this, but with little success at the moment. Every effort will continue to be made to find ways to generate an income, but this will take time.

I was unsure where insurance was mentioned, but after reviewing the 22/23 proposal I see it was included in these cost. This has never previously been included and is not included in 23/24 proposal. The £45k for services is for previously agreed contribution to CRT core costs which include governance and associated support costs.

**From:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2023 11:20 AM  
**To:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi Pauline

That's great I have sent an invite link over. I'll read through your advice again and send over any points in advance we think particularly helpful to cover, and please do the same if helpful.

Bw

[redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 19 May 2023 10:18  
**To:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> would be fine. If we could do 3.00pm.

If you can send the link that would be appreciated.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910





*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SC039277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

**From:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 19 May 2023 09:49  
**To:** Pauline Grandison  
**Cc:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis; Gary Porter  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi Pauline

Many thanks indeed for your reply, the additional information is appreciated and clarifies a number of points, but agree a conversation would be helpful. I will be on leave for the week of 29th May unfortunately, and with Gary's leave next week the first available time I can see in diaries here is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, I can offer a slot in the morning 10:00- 11:00 or in the afternoon between 14:30 and 16:00 – would either of those work for you?

Many thanks again

[redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 19 May 2023 09:06  
**To:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Budget Proposals

Hi [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

Please find attached response to your points.

There are some points that would be better discussed than replying in email.

Can I arrange a Teams meeting with yourself, [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data], Gary and myself to discuss some of these issues.

It would be appreciated if this meeting could be held as soon as possible as we are now well into the new financial year. Gary is on annual leave next week and we have Public Holiday on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910



*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SCO39277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

## **SG offer of up to £667,200k for CRT proposal 2023/24**

SG's proposed offer will support the funding of the current staff in post:

Head of Ops	£85,755	£81,122
Community Engagement Officer x2 @ £41,335	£82,670	£82,371
Community Connector Officer	£31,846	£30,052
Development Manager (Regen)	£53,988	£50,921
Training & Learning Officer	£50,824	£43,376

### **Offer of budget £305,083 – Amended budget – £287,842**

We note that the salary costs for all posts have increased by 17 -18% compared with the last available breakdown of salaries provided in 2021/22. It is noted that increase for the CCLP Development Manager is not covered in the contract with the Council who are the lead funder for this post. We would expect CRT negotiate the salary with the funder in the first instance and consider how the provision of funding across staff posts supported by different funders is addressed in overall HR policies. SG cannot be expected to meet shortfalls in staff costs contracted with other funders.

[With regards to the revised salary costs I have to apologies for calculation error. This would have been picked up as monthly salaries were paid and SG advised.](#)

### **The following sets out the proposed offer of grant against the programmes described within the CRT proposal**

#### **CRT Place**

Deliver Local Place Plans in 3 places, these should be where there is a clear ask from the community for support to deliver an LPP and where possible helpful if in considering where to direct support an approach from a community that corresponds with a priority area regeneration initiative would be welcome. We would expect the delivery of LPP to include the offer of time allocated for assistance to support project delivery (that is described in the £750k proposal) as the resource staff time is fully funded and should be available regardless of the level of programme budget allocated. The development of an LPP and realisation of the plan may be best achieved where there is engagement with the LA. The LPP may be adopted within the LDP which will inform planning decisions and helpful to understand how the fits within the LA's current LDP delivery/development schedule and whether there is mutual interest in developing a LPP – to maximise potential for development and investment. We will require updates on the communities being selected for support as this happens.

[Prior to working with a community we contact the Local Authority to ensure we have their support to develop a LPP. The work we are doing also incorporates an Action Plan for the community.](#)

**Offer budget up to £13k** – develop place plans, does this budget also include community engagement costs to deliver the work in Cardowan etc that are included in the deliverables for the CRT Place programme?

Yes.

### **CRT Support**

We can no longer provide a budget for onward distribution through an application process – therefore no budget allocated for Community Investment Programme. This will however free up time of the Community Engagement Officer and Community Connector to ensure that the 3 place projects in Cardowan, River Leven and Drongan are fully supported – as time resource was identified as an/the issue.

An indicative budget is offered for delivery of strategic interventions which we understand the Regeneration Development Manager leads on. The deliverability of this work is noted to be impacted by the availability of staff time, and with this offer covering all the staff posts which SG support, it is for CRT to plan how that resource is deployed to ensure that the appropriate staff resource is in place to deliver against the priorities, SG consider regeneration and income generation are key priorities.

Further information detailing the projects to be supported by strategic interventions is needed to ensure that the projects/activity will comply with the new grant management and financial control conditions and that there are clear outcomes. These should prioritise, as indicated in the proposal, support to income generation and area regeneration. Budget allocation will be confirmed following receipt / approval of project proposals.

Since CRT's inception this has been the definition of Strategic Interventions. Will this no longer be the case and if so can you provide guidance of what we would be able to allocate this funding to. These projects would meet CRT Priorities as defined in CRT Strategy of Health and Wellbeing, Skills and Employment.

- a 'local' project that has been the subject of internal discussion and agreed that it may have wider application in a strategic way across a number of areas, that would assist CRT in meeting objectives. The project may be deemed a pilot that could have ( or does have) a wider geographical application
- the Trust decided that it wishes to commission or tender a programme of activity to a number of different organisations to deliver one of CRT's core objectives eg. Health & Wellbeing, Skills, Employment
- the Trust decides that it wishes to bring a consortia together to deliver an innovative programme that could deliver immediate or future Trust objectives
- it is brought to the attention of, or the Trust determines that there is a need to strategically respond to a particular issue on a national or regional basis and sets about making this happen e.g. Debt response
- a project that is being delivered in a completely innovative way that may be something that the Trust wants to monitor and possible roll out into the future

In this offer we will support the delivery of the network and further detail is required on what the budget covers, frequency of meetings and what CRT is doing to support efficiency in the delivery of the network/ costs, such as virtual meetings, reducing printing etc.

Two network meeting per year. Venue hire, catering, publicity, AV equipment, expenses.

We have done network meetings virtually, but we feel this is not the best way for our community members to learn from each other.

**Offer budget £10,293k** for the network

**Offer £110k** Strategic Interventions

### **CRT Regeneration**

This heading is only listed within the budget there is not a corresponding programme deliverable, the budget items cover the Regeneration Development Manager and delivery costs for CRTworx, which is described within the Engage, Training and Learning Programme. It will be helpful to align programme delivery headings with the corresponding budgets for clarity; this will support clearer progress and financial reporting.

Noted.

### **CRT Engage, Training and Learning**

A clearer explanation of the budget for this programme would be helpful. The associated budget differs by £2k between the £700k and £750k proposal and the only clearly attributable activity for the difference is the social enterprise support, as CRT worx and sports worx both have separate budgets.

Delivery of SQA qualifications and vocational skills courses – 2 per month and outreach. The final version of the CRT proposal should include in the outcomes an indication of how many individuals you expect to engage, any plans for increasing take up (assuming that the main base for this activity is the Kincardine hub) and details on outreach, where will this be delivered how often, expected numbers.

We can forecast the training delivery through SQA accredited training as well as vocational and non vocational qualifications; however CRT respond to the needs of our communities, we meet with organisations in a variety of communities and identify what training needs and numbers they require. This is done throughout the year and it is therefore more difficult to anticipate exact numbers.

We will provide support for the delivery of the CRT worx programme, however we would be grateful for clarity on how this budget is spent, including the nature of the partnership arrangement with BRAG and The Zone, are there formal contracts in place/partnership agreement, have contracts been awarded following a tender, is VAT paid? The final proposal should indicate how many young people and which communities will be engaged in the programme in 2023/24. If the employability programmes are delivered by the contracted organisations what specifically is the role of CRT? You have advised that the Regeneration Development Manager leads this programme but it seems the number of communities that can be delivered in is also dependent on the level of match funding from the partners – what is this for 2023/24? An indicative budget of £50k is allocated, we will need to see the evidence to support this level of spend, that the appropriate contracting arrangements are in place with the delivery organisations and for any additional budget the match is in

place. We understand the value of these types of programmes and the proposal demonstrates that there are already providers in place - what gap is CRT addressing? Any additional funding for this programme will be considered on the basis of the further information requested and understanding of the value for money. We would note that both of these community organisations applied to the ICF and have been recommended for support to deliver projects identified as the priority in these areas.

We have a Provider Agreement with BRAG and The Zone. We do not go out to tender and these projects are identified as detailed in the definition we have for Strategic Interventions, see above.

Budget allocated to Supervisor salary and on costs, trainees salary and on costs, training, PPE, tools and equipment as identified.

VAT is not paid.

Using SMID we will focus on the communities below a certain rank e.g. 15% most deprived in our coalfields communities.

CRT identifies the areas that would benefit from the programme, identify a partnership organisation and provide support to the partner organisation. This is undertaken by the Regeneration Development Manager who also oversees quality control, monitoring and overall management of the programme.

CRT Sports work - expansion of the programme is suggested with a budget request of £12k, it is unclear if this funding is required to provide support to continue the existing programme or just the expansion, please clarify.

This programme has proved to be successful in the areas we have delivered previously and we want to expand this into other areas.

Social Enterprise development – it is unclear what the need for a budget is for this work. CRT's role is described as encouraging and supporting engagement with the delivery of the actual learning being provided by the School for Social Entrepreneurs, who deliver programmes at 3 different levels which are provided free of charge. The support presumably comes from an already funded staff post. We would expect that with full funding for the staff posts and perhaps scaled down delivery of CRTwork there is scope to encourage and support the 10 organisations to engage in the SSE programmes and signpost them to other supports as they gain confidence, without the requirement for additional budget. A full explanation of what any additional budget would buy would be required.

Will sign post to other organisations.

There is a budget identified for capacity building / training £15k – what activities within the plan does this budget link to and what costs does it cover?

This covers the area you have highlighted in second paragraph of this section.

**Offer of budget £50k** CRT Worx

**Offer of budget £12k** – CRT Sports worx (to absorb £800 costs for the Coach – alternatively CRT can reduce this budget to provide support to provide the £2k required to support the social enterprise programme – a breakdown of what these costs cover will be required.) [Will absorb £800 costs.](#)

**Offer of budget £15k** capacity building and training with further info

### **Connecting Communities**

The Coalfields Community Landscape Partnership (CCLP), is a project funded by East Ayrshire Council and a small amount of funding has previously been provided by the SG grant to supplement the salary of the post. We would expect this to be negotiated with the primary funder in the first instance. Progress on this project stalled fairly significantly last year with 2 key elements on hold and not progressing. The proposal for 2023/24 requests £21k match funding. What is this for, what progress can be expected in the delivery of the hub and the bike station, what discussion has CRT had with the Council as the funder for this project regarding increased budget and salary costs? When is the project set to end / complete?

We are not inclined to provide match to this project without assurance from CRT and the Council that the project will move forward.

The Connecting Communities project managed by Coalfield Community Landscape Partnership is funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund. They are the main funders with an investment of 2.2million. Other partners including CRT are East Ayrshire Council, Green Action Trust, Forestry land Scotland ,East Ayrshire Leisure Trust, 9 Community Council Group, European Regional Development Fund ,East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Transport Scotland, Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, Historic Environment Scotland and Nature Scot.

The board of CCLP invited community and groups to apply for funding to deliver a programme that would benefit rural coalfield communities with an aim to deliver on the following themes below. CRT were invited to apply to the fund which was successful, with match fund being £21k yearly to develop the Connecting Communities project.

- Address the threats to the natural, built and cultural heritage through conservation, enhancement and promotion, capitalising on the area's assets for the benefit of people in the landscape"
- Create opportunities for learning, recreation and wellbeing within the landscape for people with a range of abilities and backgrounds
- Reveal the past lives of the communities, drawing upon their close relationship with the land, thereby connecting people with their heritage and inspiring stewardship
- Equip people with the skills and knowledge to manage their landscape sustainably, building capacity and making it a successful place for residents and visitors alike
- HERITAGE –PEOPLE- COMMUNITY

The Connecting Communities project has over the last 2 years worked too support other CCLP projects with a bid to address the following issues.

Building capacity

Connecting Communities has supported local community organisations in East Ayrshire to build their capacity to take on bigger projects and manage and grow their organisation.

The Connection Communities Development Manager has helped with establishing new community organisations and provided assistance to existing organisations with setting up legal structures, improving governance arrangements, project development, business planning and submitting funding applications. The Development Manager has also signposted local people to CRT programmes (e.g. Learning Programme, Coalfields Community Investment programme. Other capacity building providers in the area, such as the Local Authority's Vibrant Communities programme, are overstretched and cannot meet demand. The capacity building activities provided by CRT are filling the widening gaps in capacity building support.

#### Building networks and partnerships

Connecting Communities has brought organisations across East Ayrshire and beyond together. Historically, and in part due to competition for funding, local community organisations have not always been inclined towards collaboration or working across communities. However, primarily through a series of networking events, Connecting Communities has begun to tackle this issue by creating opportunities for organisations to work together and provide benefit to each other. It has also given local organisations the chance to network with key stakeholders, including local councillors, development trusts and existing local projects. Closer collaboration between local organisations fostered by Connecting Communities has also provided additional benefits for the CCLP, allowing it to establish new relationships and work with new partners that would otherwise be ineligible for support (e.g. because they are cross-boundary projects)

#### Levering in funding

Connecting Communities has been instrumental in helping local organisations secure additional funding. As well as raising awareness about sources of funding available (through networking events and direct engagement with organisations), The Development Manager has helped a number of organisations to become more varied or creative in their sources of funding – for example, supporting organisations to access a 'cocktail' of funding for particular projects. As mentioned, Connecting Communities is also building capacity around making funding applications, providing advice and guidance on form-filling, writing proposals and how to structure applications to ensure maximum benefit.

This aspect of the support provided by Connecting Communities also has knock-on benefits for the CCLP. Bids for CCLP projects required match funding, but not being able to use other lottery funding to do this made it difficult for some projects to become eligible despite CCLP interest in developing them. Connecting Communities has been able to work with many of these organisations to secure alternative sources of funding and grow these projects. In total the Development Manger has helped 23 other organisations to lever in £406,255

The Development Manager has contributed much to this valuable project which is due to complete in November 2025 to the value of £21k yearly which has resulted in all the above. This project continues to close gaps in communities and will continue to provide support to ensure that communities are in a position to work together to provide legacy projects which will allow organic community led regeneration.

With regards to the bike hub, this is a Dalmellington Parish Development Trust project through the CCLP and is progressing well. Land has been acquired and a feasibility study has been completed. The group are in the process of sourcing match funding to allow the project to start.

Dalmellington Hub requires funding to refurbish the building. An application to East Ayrshire Council Place Based Fund was unsuccessful last year. CRT has been invited to apply again and is awaiting the outcome of this funding bid. We are also meeting with an officer from Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to discuss the Community Ownership Fund.

Once funding is in place the Hub will be utilised by officers from the Development Trust. There will also be a number of services that will run from the building together with tourist information centre.

## **Core costs**

**Scotland Office Costs £80k**

**Quality/shared services/HR Finance £45k**

As requested a breakdown of these costs is required, whilst these have been agreed previously as a total we now must provide a full breakdown and identify where any efficiencies can be made.

- Conferences/other meetings
- Computer
- Marketing
- Motor - car allowance
- Motor - car costs
- Motor - travel & subsistence
- Office maintenance - general
- Office maintenance - cleaning
- Printing
- Stationery
- Postage & courier
- Publications & subscriptions
- Quality costs
- Rent
- Rates
- Telephone - landline
- Telephone - mobile
- Temporary staff
- Training
- Recruitment
- Sundry

**Total offered £640,376**

We may provide additional funding of £26,824 for match to CCLP and the Development Manager costs with explanation/assurance of this funding.

The 22/23 proposal to Scottish Government was ambitious and focused on area regeneration and income generation. During this time the cost of living crisis has hit hard and had an effect on our planned delivery and the projected level of investment that was anticipated over the three year proposal that was submitted.

CRT are still progressing investment opportunities and to move towards sustainability in Scotland. Over the medium term will require a different approach to the current model of annual grant settlements which are predominantly for revenue based activities and for 25 years have never incorporated a sustainability profile.

Update on capital project;

<p><b>Kincardine and the West Fife Villages</b> Kincardine Town Centre regeneration project. This will be a £3 million investment in the town centre that will see Kincardine move toward potentially becoming a 20-minute neighbourhood. It will increase sustainable active travel, enhance community cohesion and grow its sense of place by improving the public realm in the High Street and surrounding area. CRT will work with social enterprise agencies to reinvigorate the High Street to stimulate the local economy and create new jobs. CRT will also work in partnership with the local communities of the surrounding west Fife villages to ensure that these communities can benefit from Kincardine’s regeneration and live well more locally. This project is being funded through Sustrans.</p> <p>The Kincardine Training and Enterprise Hub will recover from Covid-lockdown, becoming a community hub that enables remote working as well as business start-up services and community learning.</p>	<p>Due to full match funding not being able to be achieved the project has been scaled back. The projects has been value engineered and now decisions are being made on the best way to take the project forward, through a phased approach.</p> <p>Opportunities for social enterprises for the High Street are not coming forward.</p> <p>Kincardine Hub has been affected by people continuing to work from home.</p> <p>Training room is being utilised by CRT for a number of training course, but not being utilised by organisations wishing to pay for the facility.</p>
<p><b>Cowdenbeath Town House</b> The derelict building in Cowdenbeath High Street will be transformed into a community asset delivering reduced cost foodstuffs, training facilities for those that need it, social enterprise accommodation and third sector services. The building works will see up to £1 million of funding being attracted into one of Fife’s most disadvantaged communities. The building renovation work will be overseen by CRT Properties. The final services will be informed by Place Plan engagement, but it is currently envisaged the benefits of the project will include new jobs; training and</p>	<p>CRT were working in partnership with Fife Council. A Levelling Up bid to refurbish the building was not successful and CRT were not in a financial position to be able to take this forward. Community Shop were unable to finance refurbishments and also food supplies were proving difficult to be obtained. This project is not going ahead.</p>

skills to improve employability; information and advice to reduce poverty and promote climate change adaptation, and a community hub that enables remote working.

**Dalmellington Hub**

A disused bank in Dalmellington will be refurbished by CRT and will be rented out to third and public sector agencies. This will help build the foundations for the local Development Trust, enhance public sector agency involvement in the area and, in the long- term, provide a focal point for tourist information should the proposed Mountain Bike Centre become viable.

The building has been purchased by CRT. Funding bids have been submitted to East Ayrshire Council and awaiting outcome.

This project will be achieved, but unfortunately slower than had initially been anticipated.

## **Proposal 23/24**

Tackling poverty is high on the agenda for the Scottish Government. The points below as highlighted in an analysis of Coalfield Area Deprivation in Scotland are all contributory factors to poverty within our coalfields communities.

- Continuing deprivation with 30% of coalfield neighbourhoods now in most deprived 20%, and key challenges across education, employment, income, and health domains.
- Coalfield communities have higher rates of 16-19-year olds not in education, employment, or training and fewer 17-21-year olds enrolling in higher education (data is from 2013/14 and 2015/16).
- Rates of child poverty are above average with 17,750 children (21%) living in low income families.
- 2% increase in jobs between 2015 and 2018, in line with the Scottish average. By 2018 the coalfields had 287 jobs per 1,000 people, compared to 467 per 1,000 for the whole of Scotland.
- Overall, the coalfields still have fewer jobs in higher-skill, knowledge intensive industries (financial and insurance, information and communication, business administration, professional and technical, property and other services).
- There are persistent health problems, with Scottish coalfields now in a worse comparative position since the previous SIMD in 2012.

## **2034/24 Programme**

### **CRT Place**

CRT will work with 3 communities to support the development of a Local Place Plans/Action Plans utilising the Place Standard as a key tool for community engagement. Benefits will be the upskilling of local community members, the attraction of new resources into coalfield communities and enhanced community connections. These Plans will form the basis for future CRT investment, allowing the opportunity to identify key assets, community strengths and generate partner funding.

CRT Communities;

- Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire
- Bo'ness, Falkirk
- Glenboig, North Lanarkshire

CRT will continue to support;

- River Leven project which involves community engagement activities and events relating to the Behaviour Change Plan developed in conjunction with the River Leven Connectivity project which is being delivered by a number of partners. This is a long term project.
- Project development support to Cardowan

### **CRT Support**

CRT will provide capacity building support to build the systems, skills, people and resources in all 89 eligible coalfield wards. We manage demand and prioritise support through our tried and tested 'triage' system:

- Level 1: All organisations that request support will receive an appropriate level of advice and/or e-mail support
- Level 2: In those cases where we are best placed to make an impact we will organise a site visit or local 'surgeries' to assess needs and agree a programme of tailored support
- Level 3: Based on an agreed plan, we will provide a variety of one-to-one support to an active caseload of organisations, including assistance with project development, funding strategies, grant applications, action planning, grant management and monitoring, etc.

Our approach involves mentoring, coaching and hands-on support, seeking at every point to transfer knowledge and skills to the coalfield organisation. This will be accompanied by access to relevant information, materials and learning resources.

The one-to-one support is complemented by a series of training workshops and seminars that are open to all coalfield groups and organisations. These will address common issues and techniques (e.g. committee skills, fundraising techniques, the use of ICT, etc.) and provide the opportunity to learn, network, and to share ideas.

Our focus is also be on assisting the groups and organisations to explore opportunities for trading and to develop into social enterprises.

Finding the resources to fund projects and activities that are important in a community is challenging and complex. CRT can provide useful information, advice and training on funding and fundraising to community and voluntary organisations across coalfield communities in Scotland.

## **Network Events**

Over the years we've seen local people and community groups come up with some of the most innovative solutions to local challenges. But we've also seen that sometimes they need a little help unlocking their potential. Constituting a community group, finding funding and recruiting volunteers are some of the common challenges when trying to get locally-driven ideas off the ground.

The Coalfield Community Network is aimed to help community and voluntary groups and those who support them overcome some of those hurdles.

The Coalfields Community Network provides the following to coalfield organisations:

- Access to CRT Connect – a portal to help smaller organizations develop their skills and knowledge through a range of practical tools
- Invitations to the annual Coalfields Network meeting
- An annual CRT circular
- Provide opportunities to share best practice with like- minded organisations
- Access direct support

## **Strategic Interventions**

### **Family Hub Project**

#### **Drongan, Netherthird & Lesmahagow**

The Strategic Intervention we are looking to deliver is to provide a family centred project that will see the most vulnerable families and children from the most deprived areas within East Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire given the chance to be supported in variety of methods.

These communities would be Drongan and Netherthird, East Ayrshire and Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire.

We will work with the local communities to identify families and create a pathway for them within their communities. We will do this by working in partnership with local primary schools, health visitors and social work departments who in return can refer families to the project. There will also be a self-referral route which would provide an open door policy to allow anyone to connect with the staff on this project.

We have already met with potential funders who would match fund this project.

The project would be delivered over five days per week. There will be 2 Family Development Officers based in each location who will have the relevant qualifications for the position. The project will be managed by CRT Regeneration Manager.

We will utilise local community facilities to deliver the project.

The Family Development Officers will produce development plans and activities based around the SHANNARI.

The most important part of this project is identifying the specific needs of the families in the local community to allow us to understand the challenges they face and the areas where they require support.

Within the areas we have identified research has proved that there are no other family projects like this. This has helped us to understand where the gaps in provision are.

There is a need for intervention that focus on children and families mental health and wellbeing. The adverse effects of isolation from quality services has meant lack of motivation, self-confidence, low or no self-aspirations and in some cases obesity and ill health.

The families that we will work with are from deprived backgrounds and many have contrasting experiences at school and home because they are less advantaged. They are more likely to feel a lack of confidence, self-esteem and happiness they become reluctant to socialise with their peers and find joining groups very traumatic. We propose to work with the families individually and in small groups to increase their confidence through various activities that can help build self-confidence and the children will experience a more structured and supervised experience.

Many families become disaffected and develop strong resentments of others due to circumstances out with their control we will through our intense support programme help them to regain the trust and confidence in others, this will reconnect them and help them to feel more involved in their community and develop their social citizenship.

We hope this would also help them feel better about themselves and their future. The staff will develop individual plans with small goals to allow the families to see their own progress this in return will help boost their confidence to join larger groups and make new friends.

We will establish relationships with partners to ensure that the best services is in place for any family presenting at the project in doing this we will leverage more support. By sharing resources we can support people with literacy, careers and health and wellbeing.

This will initially be a one year pilot project and after evaluation would look to continue with delivery.

The project will be evaluated throughout.

## **Outcomes**

- improved mental and physical wellbeing
- increased happiness and satisfaction
- reduced stress and anxiety
- Supported with low cost child care if and when required.
- Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community
- Included and participating in society

## **CRT Engage**

### **Training and Learning**

We have (to date) planned 22 courses for the year, 2 of which have been complete, a mix of accredited, non-accredited and vocational and non-vocational. These include SQA level 3 accredited courses, industry accredited and recognised qualifications as well as awareness raising / soft skills courses.

We calculate to average 10 participants on each course (min 8 / max 12) so forecast approx. 220 individuals will receive support through these programmes ( this excludes the Coalfields Worx Programmes) and we have identified another 8-10 courses which could potentially be delivered from community requests already received, budget depending.

The budget spend for this is to date is approx. £12,000 with some additional costs that are variable i.e. room hires and SQA fees that will still need to be considered.

## **Coalfields Worx**

We propose to deliver a Coalfields Worx programme in Lesmahagow. We have started initial needs analysis and work with the Development Trust, and will look to leverage match funding to deliver the programme. Lesmahagow is an area that we have had little engagement with and we will support the Trust in setting up of the programme through the support from the Regeneration Manager.

The budget will be allocated to supervisor salary and on costs, trainees' salary and on costs, training, PPE, tools and equipment as identified.

## **Sport Works**

This will be delivered in one community.

This programme will specifically target those disengaged with services and with specific support needs and who are deemed to have chaotic lifestyles.

A 10 week course for 8-12 participants will be developed for local unemployed residents aged between 16 and 24. The programme will be tailored for the participants and will include can include sporting activities and health and wellbeing activities. They will also gain accredited and non-accredited qualifications.

## **Connecting Communities**

This project is managed by Coalfields Community Landscape Partnership and is funded through Heritage Lottery Fund with match funding from CRT.

Connecting Communities Project;

- Address the threats to the natural, built and cultural heritage through conservation, enhancement and promotion, capitalising on the area's assets for the benefit of people in the landscape"
- Create opportunities for learning, recreation and wellbeing within the landscape for people with a range of abilities and backgrounds
- Reveal the past lives of the communities, drawing upon their close relationship with the land, thereby connecting people with their heritage and inspiring stewardship
- Equip people with the skills and knowledge to manage their landscape sustainably, building capacity and making it a successful place for residents and visitors alike
- HERITAGE –PEOPLE- COMMUNITY

The projects aims are;

- Building capacity
- Building networks and partnerships
- Levering in funding

## Expenditure

	Total
(Head of Ops, Development Manager, 2 x Community Engagement Officers, Training and Learning Officer, Community Connector	287,842
CCLP Manager	47,939
Game on Manager	47,939
Training Hub receptionist	15,667
Core costs (HR, Finance, training, governance, etc.)	45,000
Office costs (phones, rent, stationery, travel etc.)	80,000
Network	10,293
Training	15,000
Coalfields Worx	50,000
Sport Works	12,000
Strategic Interventions	110,000
CRT Place	13,000
Doon Valley programme/CCLP match	26,824
<b>Total</b>	<b>761,504</b>

## Income

Scottish Government	649,959
CRT- Game On	52,159
CCLP	28,000
Other funding	31,386
<b>Total</b>	<b>761,504</b>

The following outputs will be measured:

<b>Intermediate outcome</b>	<b>Measurable outputs</b>
There will be an increase in the number of individuals living in coalfield communities with qualifications.	No. of training courses delivered via CRT directly, contracted agency or grant
	No. of people qualified via CRT training, contracted agency or grant
	Variety of courses delivered
There will be a stronger network of community and voluntary organisations delivering services and facilities in coalfield communities	No. of regular volunteers engaged in CRT funded activities
	No. of community organisations supported with CRT advice, information, training or funding
	No. of community agencies engaged in Place Plan activities
There will be more people participating in activities that increase physical activity and improve mental well-being	No. of Football 5sessions
	No. of girls only activity sessions
	No. of people being physically active regularly
	No. of regular volunteers involved in CRT funded projects
The level of investment in coalfield communities will increase	Income generated into coalfield communities via CRT support
	No. of physical improvement projects delivered
	Value of physical improvements delivered
More individuals will be involved in community led regeneration activities	No. of people involved in Place Plan activity
People are able to move onto positive destinations because of CRT interventions	No. of jobs created
	No. of people moving onto positive outcomes
	No. of employability projects supported

## National Outcomes and Performance Framework

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust's unique combination of services in Scotland's former mining communities will contribute to Scotland's National Outcomes.

<b>Scottish Government outcomes</b>	<b>CRT high level outcomes</b>	<b>CRT Scotland intermediate outcomes</b>
We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society	Grow the confidence, skills and qualifications of our coalfield population	<p>There will be an increase in the number of individuals living in coalfield communities with qualifications.</p> <p>There will be a stronger network of community and voluntary organisations delivering services and facilities in coalfield communities</p>
We are healthy and active	Improve the health outcomes for our coalfield population and increase the numbers of people taking part in healthy lifestyle activities	There will be more people participating in activities that increase physical activity and improve mental well-being
We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally	Increase the number of people in work and create the conditions for new job opportunities in our communities	The level of financial investment in coalfield communities will increase
We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe		More individuals will be involved in community wealth-building activities
We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone		People are able to move onto positive destinations because of CRT interventions

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2023 11:48 AM  
**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.uk  
**Cc:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.uk; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Proposal

Hi [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

Please find attached CRT proposal for funding 23/24.

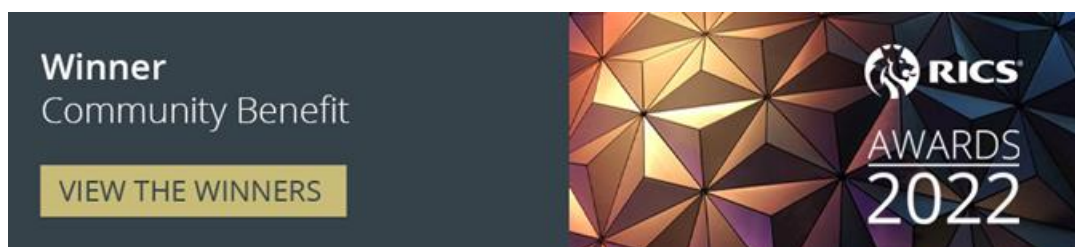
I hope this meets with your approval and we will receive an offer of grant at your earliest convenience.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910



*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SCO39277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.uk  
**Sent:** 16 June 2023 12:46  
**To:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Proposal

Hi Pauline

Thanks for letting me know, I look forward to receiving it when you return from leave, and hope you have a good break.

Bw

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 10:10 AM  
**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.uk  
**Subject:** CRT Proposal

Hi [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

I have been working on our proposal for funding. It is near completion, but I am now going on holiday for 10 days.

As soon as I return the proposal will be completed and I will send it over, hopefully for your agreement.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910





*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SCO39277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

*This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

*This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.*

## DG Communities AO Spend Approval Process, June 2023

Reflecting updated corporate spend controls agreed by Cabinet (Annex A); and following consideration of the full DG budget position and associated risks, DG Communities and Directors agreed at DGCLT on 21<sup>st</sup> June to implement the following process within DG Communities:

### 1. Options Appraisals & Value for Money Assessments

AO Spend Control templates are not a replacement for Pre-Expenditure Assessments (PEAs), Business Cases or Impact Assessments. Existing governance processes, including the requirements of the SPFM, set out that areas should **always** assess what appraisals and value for money assessments (such as Business Case and Pre-Expenditure Assessment processes) are required prior to a spend approval decision.

It is expected that accountable officers will scrutinise significant policy proposals or plans to start or vary major projects/policies, and then assess whether they measure against the required standards for regularity, propriety, value for money and feasibility. An accountable officer memorandum template is available to support this, with further guidance at:

[AOA guidance May 2023 3 .pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Accountable Officers will also expect all relevant impact assessments to have been undertaken, including Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs). Further guidance is available at: [Impact assessments \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

The Spend Control template is applicable after these assessments have been undertaken, as a means of budgetary control and to ensure a formal record of the decision taken and approval received for releasing expenditure.

Guidance on financial appraisal tools can also be found in the Supporting your AO section of Saltire here: [Financial accountability and assurance \(sharepoint.com\)](#)<sup>1</sup>

### 2. Spend Control Template Thresholds

a. The full AO approval process, as outlined in the Spend Control Template guidance ([AO Spend Control Guidance](#)) is required in the following circumstances;

i. Expenditure **greater than £1 million** that is **new spend** (i.e. spend that is not included as part of plans set out in the approved Budget allocations or an already approved and planned government programme) **or** spend which **impacts the path to balance** (i.e. impacts adversely on ability to achieve a balanced budget as per updated budgetary envelope letters provided to Cabinet Secretaries in May)

ii. To **release approved savings and items requested to be held at any value**, noting the continued expectation that all savings are delivered in full; and

iii. For future year spend (including 2024/25) the AO Spend Control process should be completed for all spend greater than £1 million **not deemed manageable within future spending envelopes, and for new spend**. This threshold applies per annum.

b. For all expenditure **not yet legally committed**<sup>2</sup> that is **£250,000 and above**, an AO Spend Control Template must be completed and submitted for approval by DG Communities before proceeding.

c. Expenditure that is **legally committed and all expenditure under £250,000** can be authorised by Directors, who may choose to delegate authority as appropriate within their Directorates. Directors should determine and apply proportionate use of the Spend Control template for this category of spend. Guidance to support Directors in making these assessments is included below, and in the AO Spend Control template guidance.

The above applies to Resource, Capital and Financial Transactions.

Further guidance can be sought from directorate finance teams, finance business partners and DG Strategic Finance Lead to support this process.

### 3. **Additional Guidance for Directors in considering a spend decision**

All Directors are required to scrutinise and challenge spend proposals within their own area as follows;

- Does the spend represent value for money and has an appropriate appraisal been completed that recommends and justifies the expenditure (see section above for further details)
- Is the spend **essential**? Essential spend has been defined previously as spend relating to exceptional activities that, if not taken forward, would cause severe cross-Scotland economic harm. This also relates to any spend where we have no option legally to halt, or renege on contracts, such that would result in further penalties in excess of any possible savings or legal action.
- How does the priority of this activity compare to the wider DG priorities? For example, at present the portfolio does not have a path to balance, given decisions taken to increase the Fuel Insecurity Fund and wider programme pressures in areas such as Ukrainian Resettlement; could the budget cover be directed to offset these portfolio pressures which may rank higher?
- Is the expenditure already committed (committed spend means legal or contractually obligated, not ministerially directed) and therefore not possible to stop? If so, should approval have been sought earlier in the process, and what controls could be put in place to allow assessment of options before commitment in the future?

- Does the spend have future year implications, and can it be reasonably assumed possible (and desirable) to fund in future years? – noting that multi-year commitments should be avoided where possible.
- Does the spend place (or increase) reliance of a third party on Scottish Government for funding going forward, and how can this reliance be mitigated.

#### 4. **Applying Savings**

Where savings are identified, these should be applied in the following order:

1. Offset against existing known pressure within the Directorate
2. Offset against wider portfolio pressure (notify DG Communities of this contribution to wider portfolio pressure)
3. If all portfolio pressure has been cleared, present (through the AO spend control template process) spend to save options to reduce pressure from future financial years (noting these can only be considered if the SG corporate position is not at risk, guidance should be sought from Finance teams and FBPs on this).

## **Background**

Following Cabinet discussion on 23<sup>rd</sup> May the central rules around use of the AO Spend Control Template have changed.

From now on an AO Spend Control template must be completed for:

- All expenditure (resource, capital and financial transactions), greater than £1 million, that is new spend (i.e. spend that is not included as part of plans set out in the approved Budget allocations or an already approved and planned government programme) or spend which impacts the path to balance (i.e. impacts adversely on ability to achieve a balanced budget as per updated budgetary envelope letters provided to Cabinet Secretaries in May); this threshold applies per annum
- To release approved savings and items requested to be held at any value, noting that the expectation continues to be that all savings are delivered in full; and
- For future years, AO templates should be completed for spend greater than £1 million (as above, the threshold applies per annum) and should be taken forward for all spend not deemed manageable within future spending envelopes and for new spend.

To confirm, this process applies to all parts of the Scottish Government, including public bodies and agencies, and also applies to the repurposing of underspends.

No commitments should be entered into, or Ministerial announcements made before obtaining approval to spend.

This has been designed to balance empowering areas and supporting accountability whilst also managing the overall financial position. ***For expenditure under £1 million, DGs can determine their own local requirements.***

AO spend control templates are used to support robust decision making, including assessment of value for money and affordability and ensuring there are adequate audit trails and evidence to support transparency and public scrutiny. Areas must **ensure that you are content with the value for money assessment for all funding/grants, before AO spend control templates are completed (this applies to resource, capital and financial transactions).**

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 3:19 PM  
**To:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Proposal

Hi [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

Thank you.

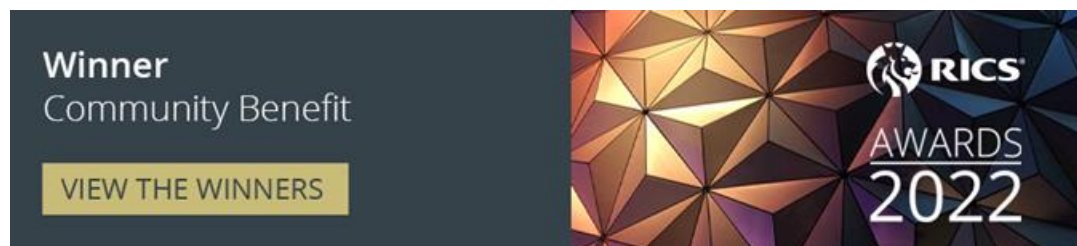
Hope to hear from you soon.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910



*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SC039277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

**From:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 05 July 2023 15:08  
**To:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Proposal

Hi Pauline

Many thanks for sending on with apologies for the delayed acknowledgement. I'm working on putting this through the approval processes and may need to come back to you if there are any questions but will otherwise be back in touch as soon as I can regarding the grant letter.

Best wishes

[redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2023 11:48 AM  
**To:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Proposal

Hi [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

Please find attached CRT proposal for funding 23/24.

I hope this meets with your approval and we will receive an offer of grant at your earliest convenience.

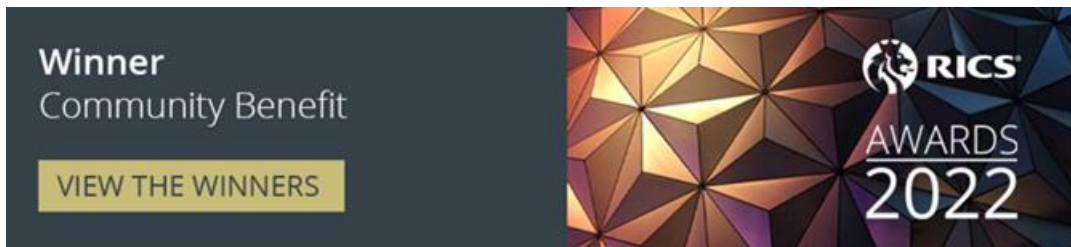
Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910





*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SCO39277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

**From:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 16 June 2023 12:46  
**To:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: CRT Proposal

Hi Pauline

Thanks for letting me know, I look forward to receiving it when you return from leave, and hope you have a good break.

Bw

[redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 10:10 AM  
**To:** [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** CRT Proposal

Hi [redaction S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

I have been working on our proposal for funding. It is near completion, but I am now going on holiday for 10 days.

As soon as I return the proposal will be completed and I will send it over, hopefully for your agreement.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
**Head of Operations Scotland**

07974684598 | 01259 230910



The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SCO39277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.

This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.

This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

*This email has been scanned for all virus*

Official Sensitive when completed

**AO SPEND CONTROL TEMPLATE**

**Please see accompanying note for guidance (including approval process and distribution lists)**

**Overall Summary** (Brief summary of proposed spend and expected outcomes, as well as affordability and value for money considerations. Summary should clearly outline impact on portfolio path to balance for 2023-24 and future year costs impacts, as well as any funding impacts on wider portfolios).

**We are seeking authority to offer grant funding of £649,959 from the Scottish Government to the charity Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT). This follows receipt of an initial proposal for £750k.**

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) was established in 1999 to help support and improve the quality of lives of people living in communities that had previously relied on the industry for employment, skills development and other economic and social support. This funding is closely aligned with the central missions of FM's policy prospectus, in particular 'Equality – tackling poverty and protecting people from harm' and 'Opportunity – a fair, green and growing economy'

SG has funded CRT in Scotland since it was established in 1999, initially with a grant of circa £1m with funding reduced to c £750k in the last 10 years. In light of an increasingly challenging financial environment we have maintained ongoing discussion with CRT over the previous 5 years to steer the organisation to a more sustainable model of funding reducing reliance on SG grant, and have worked closely with the Trust since the end of last year to advise that we would not be able maintain the same level of funding and to provide a steer on the priorities for government to inform the development of their proposed programme of work and funding required to deliver it.

In discussion with the Trust we have sought clarity on the budget proposed, its deliverables and outcomes. We have advised that our capacity is restricted to maintaining core funding (£649,959 in 2023-24) to sustain their core operations, delivering advisory support to all 89 coalfields communities in Scotland which help to build local capacity and empowerment, deliver their training and learning programme and strategic intervention programme to pilot a family hub project in Drongan, Netherthird and Lesmahagow which will focus on support for vulnerable/ disadvantaged children and families. The funding will also deliver their *Coalfield Worx* and *Sports Works* employability and wellbeing activities. The Trust will provide support to 3 communities to develop Local Place Plans/Action Plans. The expected outcomes from supporting the CRT programme in 2023/24 include:

**CRT Support** providing capacity building support to coalfields communities to build the systems, skills, people and resources in all 89 eligible wards;

**Deliver local plans in Lesmahagow, Bo'ness, Glenboig** upskilling local community members, attracting new resources into coalfield communities and enhancing community connections. The Plans will form the basis for future CRT investment;

**Family Hub in Drongan, Netherthird & Lesmahagow** will improve mental and physical wellbeing, reduce stress and anxiety in these communities, including provision of support through low-cost childcare where required. Expected to increase local inclusion and participation;



Official Sensitive when completed

DFM/F	DGC	LGH	Regeneration		Resource	650				
					<b>Total</b>	<b>650</b>				

**Budget allocated to the activity (in current year budget bill and/or future year spending review allocation):**

DFM/F	DGC	LGH	Regeneration		Resource	650				
					<b>Total</b>	<b>650</b>				

**Savings Options identified to mitigate any gap between funding required and budget allocated:**

DFM/F	DGC	LGH	Planning		Resource	100				
					<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>				

\*The £650k budget reflects a £100k reduction on the funding requested by CRT

**What reprioritisation and mitigating options/actions have been explored in advance of this proposal to manage or absorb the request, including cutting costs and, reprioritising existing staff and budgets:**

Spend across Planning & Regeneration RDEL budgets has been rationalised to maximise available resource. This includes reducing the value and number of grants supported in the Regeneration budget and significantly reducing RDEL costs on digital planning. In addition, savings and efficiencies are being achieved through consolidating Regeneration, Architecture & Place teams and absorbing additional functions within Chief Planner support team which would otherwise be undertaken by programme delivery leads. This has enabled the Division to reduce staff costs and ensure that Ministers are able to target budgets more effectively to deliver the wider programme of reform and deliver a Regeneration programme that targets resources and investments in a holistic and coordinated way, reducing poverty and tackling inequality while transforming the economic, physical, and social potential of places. Specifically for this grant we are satisfied that we can reduce the award by £100k and focus CRT's activities to those which will deliver the greatest impact for coalfield communities. CRTs initial proposal set out a planned programme of work to the value of £750k, we requested a revised set of options based on reduced levels of funding and from this scrutinised each aspect of proposed delivery and cost to determine value for money against delivery and outcomes. The activities CRT will deliver are those which through their close engagement and longstanding connection with communities have been identified working with the communities in areas of priority need. We have pushed CRT firmly to explain the budget required for delivering their programme of work which has been met with concern demonstrated in Ministerial correspondence including urgent request to meet with the Minister to discuss their reduced award and requirement to detail the budget.

Official Sensitive when completed

**Officials have communicated the increasing financial pressures to CRT and that SG are unable to maintain current levels of funding in future years. CRT are aware of the need to identify alternative sources of funding to sustain their activities and the reduced funding offer in 2023-24 is intended to encourage a pathway to reduce reliance on Scottish Government funding in future years.**

**We will continue to work closely with CRT to ensure that an alternative model is adopted, that we are content that the longer-term strategy of the funding impacts those most in need, and that each aspect of proposed delivery offers value for money. We will also work with them to examine avenues to collaborate with other partners and programmes (including Employability Scotland's No-One Left Behind) to maximise the impact of wider public investment, and deliver place-based outcomes that are aligned and meet the needs of those suffering poverty, inequality and disadvantage within Scotland's coalfields communities. CRT will also be encouraged to examine how the UK arm of the organisation can support investment in Scotland to deliver future income streams.**

**If proposed spend relates to the release of a savings option asked to be Actioned or Held in the Path to Balance, please provide an explanation of why requesting release:**

The proposed spend does not relate to the release of a savings option as the Regeneration RDEL budget is already under significant pressure as evidenced by the Investing Communities Fund being heavily over-subscribed – with the budget only able to support 105 applications for support from the 800 received but the proposal reflects reduced spending plans across divisional budgets to help support efforts to achieve a PtB across the DG communities family.

**What are the longer-term financial implications of this request, and how will these be funded from the business area?** (Points to consider: What proportion of the spend can be absorbed within the overall portfolio envelope allocated through the Spending Reviews? Was the spend considered for prioritisation through the RSR or CSR process (either corporately or within the portfolio specific prioritisation) and, if so, what decision was reached and in what way has the position changed? How will both non-recurring and recurring (e.g., if funding increase in staffing) future year costs be met? Regular evaluation of impact is essential to ensure that funding continues to be deployed in the most effective and efficient way. For how long funding is intended to be committed and what evaluation and review points are being built in?)

This proposal can be funded within the delegated budget envelope and was included within the budget profiling throughout the RSR and 2023-24 settlement. The Budget Bill allocates £76.2m to the Regeneration budget for 2023/24, of which £11.349m is Resource spend within the Empowering Communities Programme (from which CRT is funded) which provides support to communities to become more resilient and sustainable. Objectives, deliverables and key milestones will be reviewed with the grantee.

## Official Sensitive when completed

CRT has been a key SG delivery partner since 1999 and would be expected to submit proposals for similar funding levels in future financial years to ensure continued support for Scotland's coalfield communities. This would be expected to be met from Regeneration budgets. The provision of reduced funding of £649,959 for 2023/24 is aimed at encouraging CRT to move to a more sustainable model, examining alternative funding sources and reducing reliance on annual SG funding to provide greater focus on support for key activities.

In addition to dedicated funding delivered through CRT, investment in coalfields communities is made through wider regeneration revenue and capital funding streams such as the Investing in Communities Fund and Regeneration Capital Grant Fund which target our most disadvantaged and fragile communities. Continued support to these communities through funding to CRT demonstrates our ongoing commitment of support for former coalfield communities which continue to experience higher levels of poverty and disadvantage and remain areas of high interest including for example as a result of the Miners Strike Pardon Act. Our support to CRT was referenced throughout the development of the Miners Strike Pardon Act in the context of specific SG investment for coalfield communities.

While funding is not contractually committed support for CRT is politically sensitive as they deliver support and services to some of our most fragile communities with restricted employment opportunities where many are experiencing hardship, disadvantage and poor health. CRT have progressed based on good faith of an indication that grant funding would be forthcoming, in line with the letter to all directorates from the former Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, although advised this was unlikely to be at the same level as previous years. On this basis staff have remained in post and costs incurred to support staff role and delivery of CRT core functions, therefore SG would be expected to meet these costs if the decision was taken to withdraw funding. If funding is not approved there will be further pressure generated within the community development sector which continues to receive significantly more requests for support than it can accommodate and likely put additional strain on Local Government resource. SG addressed media and political criticism in July about reduced funding for CRT in 2023-24 so [redaction S30.(b)(ii) Substantial Inhibition to Free and Frank Exchange of Views]. CRT have signalled to Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning that they are currently relying on their emergency funding provision pending receipt of grant funding. As noted we have been encouraging CRT to seek more sustainable model for a number of years including exploring how the UK arm of the organisation can support investment in Scotland to deliver future income streams. In 2022/23 we were encouraged to see their proposal incorporate plans for the development of a small number of community assets which aligned well with policy for community led regeneration with potential to support some income generation for CRT, however, progress has been disappointing and these projects are not featured within the delivery programme for 2023/24. CRT Scotland are however lobbying SG to provide a multiyear capital investment package. CRT will expect to receive resource funding continue in future years and are expected to lobby for a return to previous funding levels, we will work with them to manage expectations and discuss future direction of their activities. CRT maintain that it is their unique focus and presence in former coalfield communities that has the trust and engagement of the people who live in these communities, and these relationships/trust do not exist with other similar national organisations. [redaction S30.(b)(i) Substantial Inhibition to Free and Frank Provision of Advice]

Official Sensitive when completed

**What are the impacts on the tax system of this request – whether that be devolved taxation or tax powers reserved to the UK Government?** (If none, please explain why and if unsure, please contact the Tax Division for advice.)

N/A

**Do you consider the spend to be novel or contentious?** If so, please contact your Finance Business Partner for advice.

No, spend is to a long established SG partner supporting Scotland's coalfields communities and is not novel or contentious.

**Checklist**

Please confirm a **pre expenditure assessment or business case** has been completed (please include a link to document). No  
If not, detail why below

Officials have assessed the proposal received from CRT:



Coalfields  
Regeneration Trust

Please confirm that **Procurement** have reviewed this proposal:  
Did this review highlight any risks? If so, how have these been addressed?

~~Yes/No~~ Name:

N/A

Director content that there is no procurement activity involved.

Please confirm that **Scottish Government Legal Department** (SGLD) have reviewed this proposal

Official Sensitive when completed

(including confirming budgetary and legislative powers used to undertake activity): Did this review highlight any risks? If so, how have these been addressed?	Yes/No	Name:	N/A
Director content that SGLD involvement not necessary,			
Please confirm that <b>HR Business Partners</b> have reviewed this proposal: Did this review highlight any risks? If so, how have these been addressed?	Yes/No	Name:	N/A
Director content that HR Business Partner involvement not necessary.			
Please confirm that <b>Subsidy Control</b> have reviewed this proposal: Did this review highlight any risks? If so, how have these been addressed?	Yes/No	Name:	N/A
Director content that Subsidy Control involvement is not required.			
Please confirm that the <b>Performance Framework</b> team have reviewed this proposal: Did this review highlight any risks? If so, how have these been addressed?	Yes/No	Name:	N/A
Director content that Performance Framework team involvement is not required.			
Please confirm that your <b>Finance Business Partner</b> has reviewed this proposal: Did this review highlight any risks? If so, how have these been addressed?	Yes/No	Name:	Finance Business Partner
<p>Given wider pressures on the DG Communities path to balance, in particular the risks identified on the Ukraine and Social Security budgets, [redaction S30.(b)(i) Substantial Inhibition to Free and Frank Provision of Advice]. We would reiterate the importance of continuing to work with partners to ensure that we are content with the longer term strategy of this funding, and that a full assessment of value for money has been undertaken in relation to the longer term approach.</p>			

Overall Policy Recommendation to Accountable Officer:

Approve.

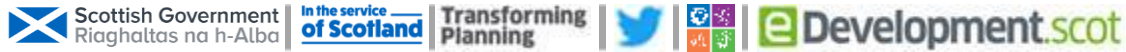
Official Sensitive when completed

*Assurances (Please delete as appropriate)*

<b>Accountable Officer Assurance</b> Accountable Officer has reviewed this proposal and is assured in recommending the decision: Any comments:	<b><del>Yes/No/</del> Not Applicable</b>
<b>Chief Financial Officer Comments</b>	
<b>Permanent Secretary Assurance</b> Permanent Secretary has reviewed this proposal and is assured in recommending the decision: Any comments:	<b><del>Yes/No/</del> Not Applicable</b>
<b>Portfolio Minister Comments</b>	
<b>Finance Minister Comments</b>	

DGC has confirmed that she is content with the proposal and noted our comments.

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] | Planning, Architecture & Regeneration | Scottish Government



**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 1:04 PM  
**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Fiona Simpson <[Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot](mailto:Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]e @gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Financial Controls - AO Spend Control - Proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust -

Hi [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

Just so that I am clear, this means we can now issue the grant offer to Coalfields Regeneration Trust?

Thanks

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

**From:** Louise Macdonald <[Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 22 August 2023 19:18  
**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Director for Local Government and Housing <[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; Fiona Simpson <[Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot](mailto:Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot)>; Chief Planner <[Chief.Planner@gov.scot](mailto:Chief.Planner@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Financial Controls - AO Spend Control - Proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust -

Thanks [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] – noted and content. L

**Louise Macdonald OBE | FRSE**  
Director General Communities  
Stiùiriche Coitcheann Chiomhearsnachdan

@Louisemac | Pronouns: She/Her

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

📍 1E.15 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[Please note: I'm sending this email at a time convenient for me. Even if I've emailed you at an odd time, I don't expect you to respond outside of your working hours; when you are caring for others; on a non-work day or during wellbeing downtime.]



**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 5:58 PM  
**To:** Louise Macdonald <[Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Director for Local Government and Housing <[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; Fiona Simpson <[Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot](mailto:Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot)>; Chief Planner <[Chief.Planner@gov.scot](mailto:Chief.Planner@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Financial Controls - AO Spend Control - Proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust -

Thank you, Louise

I have now inserted these lines and the additional comments [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] offered this morning to the template.

[PARD - financial controls - AO Spend Control - proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust - CRT - August 2023 \(A44715147\)](#)

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] | Planning, Architecture & Regeneration | Scottish Government



**From:** Louise Macdonald <[Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 5:09 PM  
**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot;  
**Cc:** Director for Local Government and Housing <[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; Fiona Simpson <[Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot](mailto:Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot)>; Chief Planner <[Chief.Planner@gov.scot](mailto:Chief.Planner@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Financial Controls - AO Spend Control - Proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust -

Thanks [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] – content with that being included.  
Appreciated. L

**Louise Macdonald OBE | FRSE**  
**Director General Communities**  
**Stiùiriche Coitcheann Chìomhearsnachdan**

@Louisemac | Pronouns: She/Her

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

📧 1E.15 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[Please note: I'm sending this email at a time convenient for me. Even if I've emailed you at an odd time, I don't expect you to respond outside of your working hours; when you are caring for others; on a non-work day or during wellbeing downtime.]

**In the service  
of Scotland**



**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot;  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** Louise Macdonald <[Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; DG Communities <[DGCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DGCommunities@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Director for Local Government and Housing <[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; Fiona Simpson <[Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot](mailto:Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot)>; Chief Planner <[Chief.Planner@gov.scot](mailto:Chief.Planner@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot;  
**Subject:** RE: Financial Controls - AO Spend Control - Proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust -

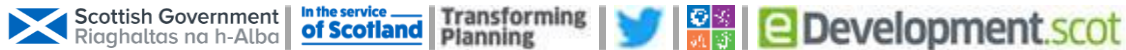
Thanks, Louise

I hope that the following narrative provides the necessary reassurance.

*Officials have communicated the increasing financial pressures to CRT and that SG are unable to maintain current levels of funding in future years. CRT are aware of the need to identify alternative sources of funding to sustain their activities and the reduced funding offer in 2023-24 is intended to encourage a pathway to reduce reliance on Scottish Government funding in future years.*

*We will continue to work closely with CRT to ensure that an alternative model is adopted, that we are content that the longer-term strategy of the funding impacts those most in need, and that each aspect of proposed delivery offers value for money. We will also work with them to examine avenues to collaborate with other partners and programmes (including Employability Scotland's No-One Left Behind) to maximise the impact of wider public investment, and deliver place-based outcomes that are aligned and meet the needs of those suffering poverty, inequality and disadvantage within Scotland's coalfields communities. CRT will also be encouraged to examine how the UK arm of the organisation can support investment in Scotland to deliver future income streams.*

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] | Planning, Architecture & Regeneration | Scottish Government



**From:** Louise Macdonald <[Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:26 PM

**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; DG Communities <[DGCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DGCommunities@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Director for Local Government and Housing

<[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; Fiona Simpson <[Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot](mailto:Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot)>; Chief Planner <[Chief.Planner@gov.scot](mailto:Chief.Planner@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot;

**Subject:** RE: Financial Controls - AO Spend Control - Proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust -

Very helpful [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] – thank you. [redacted S30(b)(i) Substantial Inhibition to Free and Frank Provision of Advice]

If we could draft a form of words around that, then I'm happy to consider sign off. Thanks all. L

**Louise Macdonald OBE | FRSE**  
Director General Communities  
Stiùiriche Coitcheann Chiomhearsnachdan

@Louisemac | Pronouns: She/Her

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

📍 1E.15 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[Please note: I'm sending this email at a time convenient for me. Even if I've emailed you at an odd time, I don't expect you to respond outside of your working hours; when you are caring for others; on a non-work day or during wellbeing downtime.]

**In the service  
of Scotland**



**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:59 AM

**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Louise Macdonald <[Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot)>; DG Communities <[DGCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DGCommunities@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Director for Local Government and Housing

<[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; Fiona Simpson <[Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot](mailto:Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot)>; Chief Planner <[Chief.Planner@gov.scot](mailto:Chief.Planner@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot;

data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Financial Controls - AO Spend Control - Proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust -

Hi Louise,

FBPs have had a chance to review, and as [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] notes as this falls under the £1m threshold CFO clearance would not be required.

I would add the following FBP comment to the template:

Given wider pressures on the DG Communities path to balance, in particular the risks identified on the Ukraine and Social Security budgets. [redacted S30(b)(i) Substantial Inhibition to Free and Frank Provision of Advice]. We would reiterate the importance of continuing to work with partners to ensure that we are content with the longer term strategy of this funding, and that a full assessment of value for money has been undertaken in relation to the longer term approach.

Kind Regards,

Kind Regards,

**[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] | Finance Business Partner | Financial Management Directorate**

*Following recent guidance I am working from home, available on Teams*

**M:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] **E:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

*My working pattern is Tuesday morning and Wednesday – Friday*

**In the service**  
**of Scotland**

**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 22 August 2023 09:46

**To:** Louise Macdonald <[Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot)>; DG Communities <[DGCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DGCommunities@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Director for Local Government and Housing

<[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; Fiona Simpson <[Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot](mailto:Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot)>; Chief Planner <[Chief.Planner@gov.scot](mailto:Chief.Planner@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot;

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

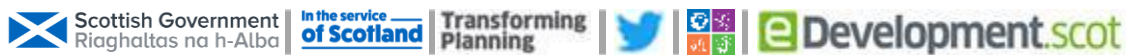
**Subject:** RE: Financial Controls - AO Spend Control - Proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust -

Thanks, Louise

Finance Business Partners are satisfied and this does not CFO clearance as the amount falls below the £1m threshold. As indicated, we are working with CRT to ensure they are less reliant on SG funding in future but this will need careful handling.

I hope that this helps.

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] | Planning, Architecture & Regeneration | Scottish Government



**From:** Louise Macdonald <[Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.Macdonald@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:22 AM

**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot>; DG Communities <[DGCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DGCommunities@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Director for Local Government and Housing

<[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; Fiona Simpson <[Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot](mailto:Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot)>; Chief Planner <[Chief.Planner@gov.scot](mailto:Chief.Planner@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Financial Controls - AO Spend Control - Proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust -

Thanks for this [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] – on the form no note from FBP or CFO? For completeness would welcome their view.

Plus – what is our thinking/intent for next year, assuming they will be seeking continued funding? Thanks, L

**Louise Macdonald OBE | FRSE**  
Director General Communities  
Stiùiriche Coitcheann Chiomhearsnachdan

@Louisemac | Pronouns: She/Her

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

📧 1E.15 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[Please note: I'm sending this email at a time convenient for me. Even if I've emailed you at an odd time, I don't expect you to respond outside of your working hours; when you are caring for others; on a non-work day or during wellbeing downtime.]

**In the service  
of Scotland**



**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Sent:** Monday, August 21, 2023 3:46 PM

**To:** DG Communities <[DGCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DGCommunities@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Director for Local Government and Housing

<[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; Fiona Simpson <[Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot](mailto:Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot)>; Chief Planner <[Chief.Planner@gov.scot](mailto:Chief.Planner@gov.scot)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Subject:** Financial Controls - AO Spend Control - Proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust -

Hi Frances

I've attached a link to submission seeking authorisation to release grant funding of £649,959 to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust which requires AO approval under DGC AO Spend Approval Process. [PARD - financial controls - AO Spend Control - proposed funding for Coalfields Regeneration Trust - CRT - August 2023 \(A44715147\)](#)

Funding sought in this submission is required to sustain core operations and is affordable within the delegated Regeneration budgets. CRT have been advised that previous levels of funding cannot be sustained in 2023-24 and we are working with them to reduce reliance on SG grants in future years. The submission has been cleared by Finance Business Partner, Chief Planner and Director for LGH. While the submission was being developed CRT have written to the Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning highlighting noting delays in providing 2023-24 funding, highlighting risks to the project, including risks of redundancy and seeking his urgent intervention so we'd welcome early confirmation if at all possible.

Many thanks

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data | Planning, Architecture & Regeneration | Scottish Government





Coalfields Regeneration Trust

1 Waterside Park

Valley Way

Wombell

Barnsley

S73 0BB

By email: [gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)

copy to: [pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)

28/08/2023

Dear Gary

## OFFER OF GRANT FOR Coalfields Regeneration Trust Scotland Proposal 2023-24

The Scottish Ministers in exercise of their powers under Section 126 of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 hereby offer to give to Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) (“the Grantee”) a grant of up to £649,959 STERLING, payable over the financial year 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024 in connection with CRT Scotland Proposal, which is more particularly described in Part 1 of **SCHEDULE 1** (“the Programme”) and subject to the following terms and conditions:

### 1. Definitions and Interpretation

- 1.1 In these Conditions, the words and expressions set out in **SCHEDULE 4** shall have the meanings ascribed to them in that Schedule.
- 1.2 In these Conditions unless the context otherwise requires, words denoting the singular shall include the plural and vice versa and words denoting any gender shall include all genders.
- 1.3 The headings in these Conditions are for convenience only and shall not be read as forming part of the Conditions or taken into account in their interpretation.
- 1.4 Except as otherwise provided in these Conditions, any reference to a clause, paragraph, subparagraph or schedule shall be a reference to a clause, paragraph, subparagraph or schedule of these Conditions. The schedules are intended to be contractual in nature. They form part of the Agreement and should be construed accordingly.
- 1.5 This Agreement shall not be varied except by an instrument in writing signed by both parties.

### 2. Purposes of the Grant

- 2.1 The Grant is made to enable the Grantee to carry out the Programme.
- 2.2 The Grant shall only be used for the purposes of the Programme and for no other purpose whatsoever.

Regeneration Unit, Area 2J North, Victoria Quay, The Shore,  
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

- 2.3 No part of the Grant shall be used to fund any activity or material which is party political in intention, use, or presentation or appears to be designed to affect support for a political party.
- 2.4 The main objectives of the Grant are outlined in Part 1 of **SCHEDULE 1**
- 2.5 The Grantee, notwithstanding the independent evaluation, will continue to report on progress at mid-year and end of year. Reporting will indicate the number of communities and citizens engaged with through the programmes; type and number of projects supported and results of feedback/evaluation of programmes as appropriate; number of jobs created; and amount of income generated via CRT support.
- 2.6 The eligible costs for which the Grant can be claimed are:
- Resource costs associated with the Programme.
- 2.7 The eligible costs exclude:
- Any Value Added Tax (VAT) reclaimable by the Grantee.
  - Any employment costs arising from the Grantee's legal obligations to its employees, for example parental leave, sick leave, redundancy.
  - Insurance costs.

### 3. Payment of Grant

- 3.1 The Grant shall be paid by the Scottish Ministers to the Grantee in accordance with the terms of **SCHEDULE 1** attached.
- 3.2 The Grantee shall within 6 months of receiving the final instalment of the Grant submit to the Scottish Ministers a statement of compliance with the Conditions of the Grant using the form of words provided in **SCHEDULE 3**. The statement shall be signed by the Grantee's
- 3.3 In the event that the amount of the Grant paid by the Scottish Ministers to the Grantee at any point in time is found to exceed the amount of the expenses reasonably required by the Grantee in connection with the Programme, the Grantee shall repay to the Scottish Ministers the amount of such excess within 14 days of receiving a written demand for it from or on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. In the event that the Grantee fails to pay such amount within the 14 day period, the Scottish Ministers shall be entitled to interest on the sum at the rate of 2 per cent per annum above the Bank of England base lending rate prevailing at the time of the written demand from the date of the written demand until payment in full of both the sum and the interest.
- 3.4 The Scottish Ministers shall not be bound to pay to the Grantee, and the Grantee shall have no claim against the Scottish Ministers in respect of, any instalment of the Grant which has not been claimed by the Grantee by 31 March of the applicable financial year as set out in **SCHEDULE 1**, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Scottish Ministers.
- 3.5 There shall be no employment relationship between the Scottish Government and any grant-funded staff.

## 4. Inspection and Information

- 4.1 The Grantee shall keep the Scottish Ministers fully informed of the progress of the Programme in the form of mid and end of year reports. Details shall include actual expenditure to date compared with profiled expenditure and any change to estimated expenditure for the financial year and/or the Programme as a whole, the reasons for any such changes and progress in achieving objectives/outcomes.
- 4.2 Revisions to targets/milestones against which progress in achieving objectives/outcomes are monitored shall be subject to the written agreement of the Scottish Ministers.
- 4.3 The Grantee shall, on completion of the Programme, submit a report to the Scottish Ministers summarising the outcomes and performance of the Programme. Such a report shall include such statistical and other information relating to the impact of the Programme as shall be required by the Scottish Ministers.
- 4.4 The Grantee shall also provide any other information that the Scottish Ministers may reasonably require to satisfy themselves that the Programme is consistent with the Agreement. The Grantee shall provide the Scottish Ministers with prompt access to any information they reasonably require to ensure compliance with these Conditions.
- 4.5 The Grantee shall keep and maintain for a period of 6 years after the expenditure occurs, adequate and proper records and books of account recording all receipts and expenditure of monies paid to it by the Scottish Ministers by way of the Grant. The Grantee shall afford the Scottish Ministers, their representatives, the Auditor General for Scotland, his/her representatives and such other persons as the Scottish Ministers may reasonably specify from time to time, such access to those records and books of account as may be required by them at any reasonable time in response to a written request for such access from the person seeking it. The Grantee shall provide such reasonable assistance and explanation as the person carrying out the inspection may from time to time require.
- 4.6 In the event of the Grantee becoming aware of or suspecting any irregular or fraudulent activity that may have any impact on the Programme or on the use of the Grant, or any part of it, the Grantee shall immediately notify the Scottish Ministers of such activity and provide such other information as the Scottish Ministers may reasonably require in relation to the impact on the Programme and the use of the Grant.
- 4.7 The grantee shall immediately inform the Scottish Ministers of any change in its constitution for example, but not limited to, a change in status from one type of body corporate to another.

## 5. Fair Work First conditionality

- 5.1 The Grantee shall pay at least the real Living Wage to all UK-based staff aged 16 and over, including apprentices directly employed by the Grantee. Any UK-based workers who are not directly employed by the Grantee but are directly engaged by the Grantee in delivering the grant-funded activity shall also be paid at least the real Living Wage, including sub-contractors or agency staff.
- 5.2 The Grantee shall demonstrate that all workers employed within their organisation have access to effective workers' voice channel(s), including agency workers.

5.3 The Grantee shall provide any and all information reasonably required by the Scottish Ministers to satisfy themselves that the Fair Work First obligations herein, namely to pay at least the real Living Wage and providing access to effective workers' voice channels, are being complied with. Guidance is available to support the Grantee in meeting and evidencing these conditions.

## 6. Confidentiality and Data Protection

6.1 The Grantee will respect the confidentiality of any commercially sensitive information that they have access to as a result of the Programme.

6.2 Notwithstanding the above, the Grantee may disclose any information as required by law or judicial order. All information submitted to the Scottish Ministers may need to be disclosed and/or published by the Scottish Ministers. Without prejudice to the foregoing generality, the Scottish Ministers may disclose information in compliance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, any other law, or, as a consequence of judicial order, or order by any court or tribunal with the authority to order disclosure. Further, the Scottish Ministers may also disclose all information submitted to them to the Scottish or United Kingdom Parliament or any other department, office or agency of His Majesty's Government in Scotland, in right of the Scottish Administration or the United Kingdom, and their servants or agents. When disclosing such information to either the Scottish Parliament or the United Kingdom Parliament it is recognised and agreed by both parties that the Scottish Ministers shall if they see fit disclose such information but are unable to impose any restriction upon the information that it provides to Members of the Scottish Parliament, or Members of the United Kingdom Parliament; such disclosure shall not be treated as a breach of this agreement.

6.3 The Grantee shall ensure that all requirements of the Data Protection Laws are fulfilled in relation to the Programme.

6.4 To comply with section 31(3) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, the Scottish Ministers publish an annual statement of all payments over £25,000. In addition, in line with openness and transparency, the Scottish Government publishes a monthly report of all payments over £25,000. The Grantee should note that where a payment is made in excess of £25,000 there will be disclosure (in the form of the name of the payee, the date of the payment, the subject matter and the amount of grant) in both the monthly report and the annual Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 statement.

## 7. Disposal of Assets

The Grantee shall not, without prior written consent of the Scottish Ministers, dispose of any asset funded, in part or in whole, with Grant funds within five years of the asset being acquired or developed. During that period the Scottish Ministers shall be entitled to the proceeds of the disposal – or the relevant proportion of the proceeds based on the percentage of grant funding used in connection with the acquisition or improvement of the asset against the whole proceeds. The Scottish Ministers shall also be entitled to the relevant proportion of any proceeds resulting from any provision included as a condition of sale. Recovery by the Scottish Ministers shall not be required where the value of the asset is less than £1,000.

## 8. Publicity

The Grantee shall where reasonably practicable acknowledge in all publicity material relating to the Programme the contribution of the Scottish Ministers to its costs. The Scottish Ministers may require to approve the form of such acknowledgement prior to its first publication.

## 9. Intellectual Property Rights

9.1 All Intellectual Property Rights are hereby assigned to and shall vest in the Crown or its assignees.

9.2 The Grantee shall ensure that nothing contained in any materials produced or submitted to the Scottish Ministers by the Grantee or anyone acting on its behalf nor the reproduction of such materials, shall constitute an infringement of any third-party copyright or intellectual property right and shall indemnify the Scottish Ministers against all actions, proceedings, claims and demands made by reason of any such infringement.

## 10. Default and Recovery etc. of Grant

10.1 The Scottish Ministers may re-assess, vary, make a deduction from, withhold, or require immediate repayment of the Grant or any part of it in the event that:

10.1.1 the Grantee commits a Default;

10.1.2 the Scottish Ministers consider that any change or departure from the purposes for which the Grant was awarded warrants an alteration in the amount of the Grant;

10.1.3 the Grantee fails to carry out the Programme;

10.1.4 in the Scottish Ministers' opinion, the progress on the Programme is not satisfactory;

10.1.5 in the Scottish Ministers' opinion, the future of the Programme is in jeopardy; or

10.1.6 in the Scottish Ministers' opinion, the Grant is likely to bring the reputation of the Scottish Ministers into disrepute.

10.2 If the Grant (or any part or condition thereof) does not comply with applicable Subsidy Control obligations, Scottish Ministers may require immediate repayment of the Grant or any part of it together with interest at such rate and on such basis as may be determined from time to time in accordance with law.

10.3 The Scottish Ministers may withhold the payment of the Grant if at any time within the duration of the Agreement:

10.3.1 The Grantee passes a resolution that it be wound up, or a court makes an order that the Grantee be wound up, in either case otherwise than for the purposes of reconstruction or amalgamation, or circumstances arise which would enable a court to make such an order or the Grantee is unable to pay its debts within the meaning of section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

10.3.2 Where the Grantee is an individual, if a petition is presented for the Grantee's bankruptcy or the sequestration of their estate or a criminal bankruptcy order is made against the Grantee; or the Grantee makes any composition or arrangement with or for the benefit of creditors, or makes any conveyance or assignment for the benefit of creditors, or if an administrator or trustee is appointed to manage their affairs; or

10.3.3 A receiver, manager, administrator or administrative receiver is appointed to the Grantee, or over all or any part of the Grantee's property, or circumstances arise which would entitle a court or a creditor to appoint such a receiver, manager, administrator or administrative receiver.

10.4 In the event that the Grantee becomes bound to pay any sum to the Scottish Ministers in terms of clause 10.1, the Grantee shall pay the Scottish Ministers the appropriate sum within 14 days of a written demand for it being given by or on behalf of the Scottish Ministers to the Grantee. In the event that the Grantee fails to pay the sum within the 14-day period, the Scottish Ministers shall be entitled to interest on the sum at the rate of 2 per cent per annum above the Bank of England base lending rate prevailing at the time of the written demand, from the date of the written demand until payment in full of both the sum and interest.

10.5 Notwithstanding the provisions of this clause 10, in the event that the Grantee is in breach of any of the Conditions, the Scottish Ministers may, provided that the breach is capable of a remedy, postpone the exercise of their rights to recover any sum from the Grantee in terms of clause 10 for such period as they see fit, and may give written notice to the Grantee requiring it to remedy the breach within such period as may be specified in the notice. In the event of the Grantee failing to remedy the breach within the period specified, the Grantee shall be bound to pay the sum to the Scottish Ministers in accordance with the foregoing provisions.

10.6 Any failure, omission or delay by the Scottish Ministers in exercising any right or remedy to which they are entitled by virtue of clauses 10.1 to 10.3 shall not be construed as a waiver of such right or remedy.

## **11. Assignment**

The Grantee shall not be entitled to assign, sub-contract or otherwise transfer its rights or obligations under the Agreement without the prior written consent of the Scottish Ministers.

## **12. Termination**

The Agreement may be terminated by the Scottish Ministers giving not less than 3 months' notice in writing from the date of the notice being sent.

## **13. Corrupt Gifts and Payments of Commission**

The Grantee shall ensure that its employees shall not breach the terms of the Bribery Act 2010 in relation to this or any other grant. The Grantee shall ensure that adequate controls are in place to prevent bribery.

## **14. Continuation of Conditions**

14.1 These Conditions, except for Condition 7, shall continue to apply for a period of 5 years after the end of the financial year in which the final instalment of the Grant was paid.

14.2 Condition 7 shall continue to apply until the end of the period referred to in that Condition.

## **15. Compliance with the Law**

The Grantee shall ensure that in relation to the Programme, they and anyone acting on their behalf shall comply with the relevant law, for the time being in force in Scotland.

## 16. Governing Law

This contract is governed by the Law of Scotland and the parties hereby prorate to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts.

If you wish to accept the offer of this Grant on the whole terms and conditions as set out in the letter and annexed Schedules, you should sign and date both copies of the Grant Acceptance below and return one copy of the offer of Grant and Schedules to me at by email [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot and hard copy to:

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

You should retain the second copy of the offer of Grant and Schedules for your own records.

Yours sincerely

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

**28/08/2023**

## GRANT ACCEPTANCE

On behalf of Coalfields Regeneration Trust I accept the foregoing offer of Grant by the Scottish Ministers dated 28/08/2023 on the whole terms and conditions as set out in the letter and annexed Schedules. I confirm that Coalfields Regeneration Trust is solvent I confirm that I hold the relevant signing authority.

Signed:

«Director/Company Secretary/Authorised Signatory»

Print Name:

Position in Organisation of Person Signing:

Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Place of Signing:

Signed:

«Witness»

Witness Name:

Address:

Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Place of Signing:

## SCHEDULE 1

### PART 1: THE PROGRAMME Coalfields Regeneration Trust Scotland Proposal 2023/24

Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) will work in partnership with the Scottish Government through their main programmes as outlined in the Proposal submitted on 30 June 2023.

This includes sustaining core operations, delivering advisory support to all 89 coalfields communities in Scotland which helps to build local capacity and empowerment, delivering their training and learning programme and strategic intervention programme to pilot a family hub project in Drongan, Netherthird and Lesmahagow which will focus on support for vulnerable/ disadvantaged children and families. The funding will also deliver their Coalfield Worx and Sports Works employability and wellbeing activities. The Trust will provide support to 3 communities to develop Local Place Plans/Action Plans. The expected outcomes from supporting the CRT programme in 2023/24 include:

- **CRT Support** providing capacity building support to coalfields communities to build the systems, skills, people and resources in all 89 eligible wards;
- **Deliver local plans in Lesmahagow, Bo'ness, Glenboig** upskilling local community members, attracting new resources into coalfield communities and enhancing community connections. The Plans will form the basis for future CRT investment;
- **Family Hub in Drongan, Netherthird & Lesmahagow** will improve mental and physical wellbeing, reduce stress and anxiety in these communities, including provision of support through low-cost childcare where required. Expected to increase local inclusion and participation;
- **Coalfield Worx project in Lesmahagow** will support those who are most removed from the labour market by improving their employability, and **Sport Works project** will provide support to those disengaged with services, providing them with skills, qualifications and experience to enter employment, volunteering or further learning;
- Through the **Connecting Communities project** the Trust will work in partnership with organisations and individuals with an interest in heritage across East Ayrshire to build an enterprise culture and develop skills that will ultimately create new services and jobs;
- **CRT Engage** which works with individuals on a one to one basis to tackle their individual health and skills needs including delivery of SQA qualifications; and
- **Staffing** – the Empowering Communities funding will support six core posts to take forward the above activities.

CRT will work with the Scottish Government to identify/support opportunities to align this programme to complement wider place based initiatives and related programmes such as No One Left Behind maximising the benefits for coalfield communities and future sustainability.

CRT will consider the ways in which and opportunities for the programme to support and contribute to the achievement of targets on Child Poverty and Net Zero.

CRT will consider the criteria set out in the Fair Work Framework and in particular commit to ensuring that posts funded through the full period of this grant support real Living Wage and gender equality in pay. CRT will further engage with the Scottish Government to explore remaining elements of the Fair Work Framework and agree any appropriate actions required and the period in which these will be achieved.

## PART 2: PAYMENT OF GRANT

1. The total Grant of up to £649,959 shall be payable by the Scottish Ministers to the Grantee quarterly on receipt of a completed claim for Grant in the form set out in **SCHEDULE 2** together with the associated monitoring information set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Offer of Grant.
2. The total Grant shall be payable over the financial year 2023-2024. The Scottish Ministers shall not be bound to pay any instalment of the Grant which has not been claimed by the Grantee by 31 March of the applicable financial year, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Scottish Ministers.
3. The Grantee shall provide a profile of expenditure of the Grant before the start of the financial year. Any change to the profile or to the overall costs of the Programme shall be notified to the Scottish Ministers at the earliest opportunity via the claims for Grant and monitoring reports.
4. Each claim shall be for an amount equal to the estimated amount of the Grant required to meet the reasonable and proper costs and expenses of the Grantee in connection with the Programme until the next claim is due to be submitted
5. Each claim shall be submitted together with such explanatory or supplementary material as the Scottish Ministers may from time to time require whether before or after submission of the claim.
6. On receipt of each claim (and any required documentation and information), the Scottish Ministers shall determine the amount of expenditure which they consider the Grantee shall reasonably and properly incur in connection with the Programme having regard to that claim. The determination shall be based on the information provided by the Grantee in accordance with this Schedule. The Scottish Ministers shall use their best endeavours (but shall be under no obligation or duty) to pay the amount determined to the Grantee within 1 week of receiving a claim and any required documentation and information relevant to the claim.
7. In order to facilitate the accrual of expenditure of the Grant for the financial year the Grantee shall, where appropriate, advise the Scottish Ministers in writing by 8 April 2024 the amount of the Grant actually expended up to and including 31 March.

## SCHEDULE 2

### GRANT CLAIM FORM

**Organisation:** Coalfields Regeneration Trust

**Bank details:** «Name and address, sort code, account number»

**Project:** Coalfields Regeneration Trust Scotland Proposal 2023/24

**Total agreed grant for:** £649,959

**Latest forecast of expenditure of grant for:** «20XX-XX»: «Amount»

**Grant claimed to date:** «Amount»

«Unexpended grant»: «Amount» (*where grant is paid in advance*)

**Estimate of grant required for the period from** [Click here to enter a date.](#) **to** [Click here to enter a date.](#) **or to** [Click here to enter a date.:](#) «Amount»

**We hereby claim «total» grant of «£XX» in respect of the above period in accordance with the terms and conditions of the offer of Grant dated 28/08/2023 and the Schedules attached thereto.**

**Completed by:**

**Position:**

**Contact Details:**

**Date:**

#### Items of Expenditure

Please list in the table below all discrete items of expenditure relevant to the above period and the type of documentary evidence that will be made available on request to substantiate each amount.

A	B	C	D
Item	Amount (£)	Paid Invoice [Y/N]	Other (please specify, e.g. certificate of payment in kind)
<b>TOTAL*</b>			

\* Note the total should add up to the total expenditure claimed for the period.

### SCHEDULE 3

#### STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS OF GRANT

##### Coalfields Regeneration Trust Scotland Proposal 2023/24

This is to confirm that the grant claimed by Coalfields Regeneration Trust in relation to the above Programme during the financial year ended 31 March 2024 was properly due and was used for its intended purpose(s) in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant. This statement is supported by the records of Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

Signed:

Name in block capitals:

Position:

Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

## SCHEDULE 4

### DEFINITIONS

**“Agreement”** means the agreement constituted by the Scottish Ministers’ invitation to apply for a grant, the Grantee’s Application, these Conditions and the Grantee’s acceptance of these Conditions;

**“Conditions”** means these grant conditions;

**“Data Protection Laws”** means any law, statute, subordinate legislation, regulation, order, mandatory guidance or code of practice, judgment of a relevant court of law, or directives or requirements of any regulatory body including the Data Protection Act 1998, the Data Protection Act 2018 and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof and the GDPR.

**“Default”** means:

- a) Any breach of the obligations of either party under this Agreement (including, but not limited to, any breach of any undertaking or warranty given under or in terms of this Agreement);
- b) Any failure to perform or the negligent performance of any obligation under this Agreement;
- c) Any breach of any legislation; or
- d) Any negligence or negligent or fraudulent mis-statement or misappropriation of Grant, or any other default,

In all cases by either party, its employees, agents or representatives;

**“Financial Year”** means a period from 1 April in one year until 31 March in the next;

**“Grant”** means the grant offered by the Scottish Ministers to the Grantee as specified in the Award Letter, as varied from time to time in accordance with these Conditions;

**“Grantee”** means the person, organisation or body to which the Grant will be payable as specified in these Conditions. Where two or more persons, organisations or bodies are the Grantee, references to the “Grantee” are to those persons, organisations or bodies collectively and their obligations under the Agreement are undertaken jointly and severally;

**“Intellectual Property Rights”** means all copyright, patent, trademark, design right, database right and any other right in the nature of intellectual property whether or not registered, in any materials or works in whatever form (including but not limited to any materials stored in or made available by means of an information technology system and the computer software relating thereto) which are created, produced or generated as part of the Programme by or on behalf of the Grantee.

**“Project/Programme”** means the purpose for which the Grant has been awarded as described in the Offer of Grant;

**“Payment”** means each of the payments specified in Schedule 1 hereto.

**“Subsidy Control”** means the United Kingdom’s international commitments on subsidy control arising from, amongst others, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, World Trade Organisation Membership and commitments arising from international treaties and agreements to which the United Kingdom is a party.

**“UK GDPR”** means the retained EU law version of the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) as it forms part of the law of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by virtue of section 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and as amended by Schedule 1 to the Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/419).

**From:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 1:17 PM

**To:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: SG Offer of Grant - Coalfields Regeneration Trust - 2023/24

Hi [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

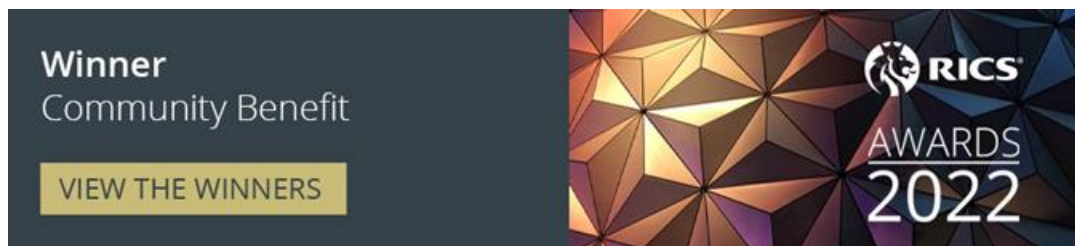
Please find attached Grant Offer duly signed.

Regards

Pauline

**Pauline Grandison**  
Head of Operations Scotland

07974684598 | 01259 230910



*The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SCO39277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB. Telephone 01226 270800.*

*This email, including any attachments, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is received by mistake please let us know and delete it from your system - do not read or copy it or disclose its contents to anyone. Any liability (in negligence or otherwise) arising from any third party relying on this email is excluded. Emails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be free of errors or viruses. It is your responsibility to scan emails and attachments for viruses before opening them. No responsibility is accepted for emails unconnected with our business. Messages may be monitored for compliance purposes and to protect our business.*

**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 28 August 2023 14:11  
**To:** Gary Ellis <[gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.ellis@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** SG Offer of Grant - Coalfields Regeneration Trust - 2023/24

Hi Gary,

I attach the offer of grant to Coalfields Regeneration Trust for 2023/24.

Grateful if you could sign and return the grant acceptance at your earliest convenience.

Regards,  
[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot  
[The Scottish Government](#)  
[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

*This email has been scanned for all viruses by Mimecast.*

Draft Note of Meeting

## **Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning with Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT)**

14 September 2023 9:30 - 10:15 meeting held online via Teams

### Attendees

Nicky Wilson, Vice Chair of Trustees Scotland

Bob Young, Trustee

Pauline Grandison, Head of Operations Scotland

Gary Porter, Regeneration Manager/Deputy Head of Operations Scotland

### Scottish Government

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

## **Welcome and Introductions**

The Minister opened the meeting and invited attendees to introduce themselves and open the discussion.

Nicky Wilson noted CRTs understanding of the cuts imposed through West Minister and that a similar issue had occurred in 2011 when they secured a meeting with Nicola Sturgeon to get seed corn budget, who then restored CRT's funding.

Nicky noted the concern of losing £100k supporting seed corn, and while CRT look to other funds some of these closed in June and others are bigger funds which do not support small groups. It was asked whether the £100k could come from other funds.

The Minister noted he would wish to hear the widest pitch and come back to CRT.

Pauline noted that the smaller grants that are required do not fit with the criteria for many funders and the application process too complicated, so small groups don't apply for these funds. CRT do work with groups to build their projects and support them to go to bigger funds, noting they have received around 40 enquiries since April.

The Minister advised that the budget had been more challenging than envisaged. The budget supporting CRT has overall reduced by around 25% against previous levels and 17% in this year and the grant for CRT had been protected by more than the level of budget reduction.

The budget is moving within year and with the need to balance the budget reductions are being made. We do not have the £100k and need to look at how CRT can access other funding.

The funding we provide is for the purpose of supporting regeneration and should align with regeneration priorities, every penny must show how it meets those purposes.

There are a range of bodies addressing regeneration aims and more of a partnership approach is valued.

NW noted the understanding of the pressures and the funds they had been pointed to, setting out some of the history of CRT from their establishment in 1999. CRT recognise they need to move on but wished to know if there was a way to make it easier to access these other funding pots, potential to tweak some of these schemes.

The Minister noted he was happy to have a conversation around other funds and the other foundations out with Scottish Government, to get an understanding of what their criteria are and act in a brokering role. The Minister enquired about the role of CRT UK and option of getting funding from them.

CRT noted the operational impact of the request for additional information to secure their grant, the challenge for the team of working with communities to explain the projects and then report every year.

The Minister advised that all bodies are under increased requirements to show what they are doing, and that we should always be checking on outcomes. A further conversation about what's difficult may be helpful, but we need to have the ammunition to defend the sizeable funding being provided.

NW noted that the All Party Report highlighted that the issues haven't gone away.

The Minister explained that we need to see public money being spent on the things that will make a real difference, noting the 3 projects supported last year that had this potential but which had stalled. This is a challenge in terms of funding, particularly with the more rigid framework around funding now in place.

NW advised that the work in Cowdenbeath was out of their hands, but that CRT UK have now bought a hub and the Local Authority have agreed to provide money for the refurbishment. This though is a 5 year loan that they will need to payback to CRT UK.

There was discussion about the CRT property model. CRT are looking to purchase land in Cowdenbeath and are working with Fife Council around the development of commercial units.

The Minister suggested bringing forward a proposal advising that if working with the council this may make other funds such as vacant and derelict land or regeneration capital grant fund an option.

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] noted there had been ongoing conversations with Gary Ellis around this over a number of years, but that previous projects had fallen away. It was surprising the money for the hub was being provided

as a loan and questioned if CRT could make money from that, which would be good if that could enable it to be self-sustaining. Happy to take that conversation away and meet with Gary Ellis again if CRT were able to arrange that.

Nicky Wilson agreed it would that would be helpful and would put some meat on the bones of these conversations. He advised that it may also be possible that loans could be written off in a shorter period.

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] noted that it needs to develop from concept to something that can be invested in.

Pauline advised that, due to the timing of receiving the grant, the 3 community areas they were working with there have been changes and a need now to work with a different community. This is why they want an open grant.

The Minister advised that there is perhaps some middle ground that we can flex around.

Bob Young noted the difference that their dementia project had made and how successful it had been supporting the health of this group and the funding to support the awards ceremony for the GLIN network engaging young people in horticulture. Which they now need to stop or cut.

The minister noted the challenge for communities accessing funding equally and whether this was the right route.

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data] advised that although unable to provide funding for the small grants fund happy to arrange a meeting to discuss progress, current challenges, and consider options for potential flexibility.

CRT advised that they had covered the main items from the agenda and welcomed the Ministers time to listen.

The Minister advised there were a few things for them to think about and for us to take away, with further conversations to have with officials.

The meeting concluded.

**From:** [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Sent:** Friday, October 6, 2023 11:15 AM

**To:** Pauline Grandison <[pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>

**Cc:** Gary Porter <[gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk](mailto:gary.porter@coalfields-regen.org.uk)>; [redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]@gov.scot

**Subject:** CRT grant - following up on actions from the meeting with the Minister

Hi Pauline

In follow up to the discussion with the Minister it would be helpful to find a suitable slot in diaries for a discussion on the points you raised concerning the strategic interventions which are not able to progress and consider what flexibility we may be able to offer. While we cannot provide budget to run a small grant fund we agreed to explore with you any flexibility we could provide through this year's grant. We have availability next Wednesday (am or pm) or next Friday (late morning / early afternoon). Please let me know if there is a time that may work for you or please do suggest alternative dates.

It would be helpful if you could provide some further information in advance of the meeting on the current position of the Family Hub Project which was planned to be delivered for 3 communities, employing 2 family development officers in each community. It will be helpful to understand the current position, which communities this will progress in and progress on developing the project, recruitment etc. You mentioned during the meeting that you would be looking for a different community to deliver this project in and helpful when we meet to get an understanding the method of identifying the communities for this.

I would be grateful to understand what impact there has been on the planned expenditure for this part of the programme, as I would expect that this will result in underspend against the £110k budgeted for delivery, this will enable us to consider what flexibility there is. Connected to this we have received the grant claim for quarter 1 and 2, however, the section on evidence of expenditure has not been completed and with the changes to the project delivery it is unclear if all the costs claimed relate to actual expenditure. I would be grateful if this could be completed and re-submitted so we have a clear picture of the amount of grant spent and budget remaining.

In addition you agreed to arrange a meeting with Gary Ellis and grateful for an update on this.

Separately I would be grateful if you could send the final report for the 2022/23 grant and the statement of compliance (schedule 3 in the grant offer). In previous years the final report included a breakdown of the groups, projects that had received small grants and amount received, and grateful if this could be included again for 2022/23 final report.

When we meet it will also be helpful to touch upon the development of the proposal for next year, and given the continuing budget pressures we will be looking for this to be clearly focussed on regeneration outcomes. It will be helpful to work towards submitting this to us by end of November/early December to make sure we have more time built in ahead of the start of the next financial year.

Best wishes

[redacted S38(i)(b) Third Party personal data]

Local Government & Housing Directorate. Victoria Quay. Scottish Government