



INTRODUCTION TO

DEVELOPMENT TRUSTS

from Engage Renfrewshire

WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENT TRUST?

Development trusts are enterprises with social objectives which are actively engaged in the regeneration of an area, a valley, a housing estate, a town centre or a wasteland, whilst ensuring that the benefits are returned to the community.

They may vary in their location, priorities, origins and even in their names, for example Amenity Trusts, Environment Trust or Community Development Company, but they all share or aspire to a number of basic principles.

There is no one model for trusts although many will have similar characteristics, for example:

- They are concerned with the long-term regeneration of an area in the widest sense; economy, environment, facilities, and/or the services and 'spirit' of its communities
- They seek to be financially self-sufficient and independent, not just relying on grants
- They aim to create assets in the community and make a profit, but not for private gain. Any profit is reinvested in the community
- They are community based and accountable, in their work, their style and the composition of their boards of management.



The aims of Development Trusts

Development Trusts are engaged in a wide variety of economic, social and environmental regeneration for example;

Economic Activity

- Developing and managing workspaces for small and medium sized businesses
- Providing office space, shops and market areas and also giving business advice
- Running job and training schemes
- Promoting tourism and encouraging inward investment

Local Environment

- Improving and developing derelict land
- Regenerating and managing open public spaces
- Carrying out local improvement schemes and restoring buildings
- Doing educational work with schools

Local Services and Amenities

- Developing and running sports and recreational facilities
- Managing community centres and providing community offices
- Promoting local heritage
- Running play schemes and childcare centres
- Developing low cost housing
- Support community development

Development Trusts can be involved in many different activities

- Running the local shop or post office
- Developing play park and recreational facilities
- Managing a housing development
- Developing renewable energy projects
- Running training programmes
- Running childcare or youth services
- Preserving local heritage
- Restoring and conserving historic buildings

Contact Development Trusts Association Scotland for more information:

www.dtascot.org.uk

T: 0131 220 2456

E: info@dtascot.org.uk

(for general enquiries)

E: membership@dtascot.org.uk

(for membership enquiries including setting up a development trust)

There is no one model for trusts although many will have similar characteristics.

