

# Quick Guide to.....Development Trusts

## 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 center or a wasteland, whilst ensuring that the benefits are returned to the community. They may vary in their location, their priorities, their origins and even in their names, for example Amenity Trusts, Environment Trust or Community Development Company, but all share or aspire to a number of basic principles. There is no one model for trusts although many will have similar characteristics.

Primarily the following generic attributes may be given to Development Trusts:

- They are concerned with the long term regeneration of an area in the widest sense, with its economy, it's environment, it's facilities and the services and the '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 made is re-invested in the community.
- They are community based and accountable, in their work, their style and the composition of their boards of management.

## Development Trusts can be involved in many different activates such as;

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

## The Aims of Development Trusts

Development trusts are engaged in a wide variety of economic, social and environmental regeneration.

**Economic Activity** is supported by:

- 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 encourage inward investment

**The Local Environment** is assisted with:

- 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** are supported with:

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





## The following may be contacted for more information on Development Trusts:

Development Trust Association Scotland  
54 Manor Place  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7EH

Telephone: 0131 220 2456  
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