REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC034231

Report of the Trustees and

Audited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

for

Development Trusts Association Scotland

Robb Ferguson
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Regent Court
70 West Regent Street
Glasgow
G2 2QZ

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For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

Development Trusts Association Scotland

Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) was established in March 2003 in response to an identified gap in the sector. An initial funding package from Communities Scotland, Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Royal Bank of Scotland enabled an office base to be established and a small staff team of 3 appointed. Over the period since then, further grant funding has been accessed, including Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, ESF EQUAL, the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland (now National Lottery Community Fund), Acorns to Trees Trust, William Grant Foundation, and importantly, the Scottish Government. This financial support has enabled the organisation to develop and expand, with DTAS now having a staff of 29.

DTAS aims to have a successful and sustainable development trust in every community. To achieve this, DTAS addresses itself to four key tasks:

1. To encourage the growth of new development trusts
2. To support and strengthen existing development trusts
3. To promote the development trust approach and represent the interests of development trusts
4. To run our organisation effectively and reflect the democratic wishes and aspirations of our members.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2025/26 has seen consolidation of the membership throughout Scotland and increasing demand for the support and advice from DTAS, Community Ownership Support Service and our Democratic Finance Scotland team. The membership continues to support the most vulnerable within society with the cost of living crisis and post pandemic issues whilst providing strong community-led leadership. On 31st March 2026, DTAS had 350 development trust members and is supporting a further 49 communities who are in the process of establishing a development trust. In addition, it has 48 Associate members who are not development trusts but support the movement. At the core of our work is the implementation of the national policy around strengthening community infrastructures, community empowerment and community-led activity, and DTAS provides an important interface between policy and practise.

Throughout 2025-2026, our in-person regional networking events across the country continued, with members coming together and discussing priorities for their communities. Our core support, member benefits, expert help, strategic reviews, training and our Green Shoots fund for organisation and critical support have continued to help develop, build capacity and overcome barriers throughout the membership. The dedicated development officer team are continually reviewing membership benefits and support provided and this year we have continued to deliver a crisis support (with Just Enterprise, Community Enterprise and Scottish Community Alliance) and our Workplace Wellbeing Support Service and Coaching.

DTAS remains a strategic partner of the Scottish Government. DTAS is engaged with a number of existing and emerging national policy areas - spanning both policy development and policy implementation. These policy areas include Community Wealth Building, Democracy Matters, Community Benefit Funds, Net Zero Steering Group, Land Reform, Regeneration and Place-making, The Town Centre Action Plan Forum, Community Empowerment, Offshore Renewable Community Benefit Review and the Social Enterprise Action Plan.

Over the last few years, DTAS has been a key delivery partner within the Scottish Government's Strengthening Communities Programme (SCP), and around a quarter of DTAS members have benefitted from SCP investment. In 2021, the SCP was separated from the Investing in Communities fund and DTAS is now responsible for distributing the SCP grant to the participating organisations. During 2025-26, DTAS has supported a total of 31 organisations and issued over £1m in grant funding.

In 2025, Foundation Scotland approached DTAS with an opportunity to distribute up to £5 million to community anchor organisations. This funding provided an opportunity to shift from a traditional fund to a more holistic programme rooted in six core pillars of organisational resilience and recovering from crisis situations. Between May and August 2025, DTAS undertook an extensive design process involving internal teams, members, external partners and a pilot with six member organisations. The resulting Recovery and Resilience Programme, launched in October 2025, provides a structured pathway combining DTAS support, training, and grants of up to £100,000 over two years. It is designed to help development trusts stabilise, prevent crises, and strengthen their long-term resilience across the six pillars: Purpose; Governance and Leadership; Finance, Funding and Enterprise; People and Operations; Communications, Engagement and Impact; and Assets. During 2025-26, 90 member organisations participated in the Programme, with £801,300 grants awarded and £402,213 paid out.

In addition, DTAS delivered the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS). COSS has continued to expand and deliver professional development training with local authorities, public bodies and other agencies and communities. With an influx of asset transfer requests, at risk public assets and increased need/demand for democratic finance our team support is paramount. COSS has responded to 249 new asset transfer / community ownership enquiries in the past year.

Our COSS team also completed work with our 4 nations partners to support communities access the community ownership fund which has resulted in £17 million being secured for 47 community assets in Scotland.

The Scottish Universities Land Unit (SULU) programme unfortunately came to an end in 2025 due to a lack of funding.

The COSS team also continued to deliver the three-year funding programme to provide holistic support enabling communities to create a publicly accessible, sustainable future for historic places of worship across Scotland that are under threat. This programme is funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

In August 2024, DTAS launched our Democratic Finance Scotland programme. Expanding on our Community Shares Scotland programme, the Democratic Finance programme is looking at renewable energy opportunities, legacy finance options, community lotteries, in addition to shares and bonds. In 2025-26, the team launched 6 new share offers. 2 crowdfunding campaigns and 6 local legacy giving campaigns and provided 283 democratic finance support interventions to over 150 groups.

In 2025, DTAS entered into an agreement with Scottish Government and Local Energy Scotland, in partnership with Community Energy Scotland, to deliver a new Community Energy Capacity Building Launchpad programme. The objective is to increase accessibility of community energy and shared ownership, and to ensure more communities continue to see the benefit of our energy transition.

DTAS continues to report separately to all our funders on a quarterly or half yearly basis.

The DTAS staff numbers have increased to 29 full or part time posts. There was a number of personnel changes during the course of the year. This was due to new programmes starting, as well as opportunities for internal movement within the organisation. The Senior Staff Team remained stable, with one personnel change in the year.

The governance of DTAS remains sound. At the AGM, 15 Trustees were appointed at the Annual General Meeting which was held in-person on 26th August 2025. Board meetings continue to be well attended. DTAS operates two standing sub-committees (Finance and Resources and Policy and Communications) both of whom meet on a quarterly basis and play an important role in the governance of the organisation. Beyond attendance at board meetings, DTAS trustees have performed additional representational and operational duties for the organisation.

On 12th July 2024, DTAS' wholly-owned trading subsidiary, DTAS Trading, was dissolved.

Thanks go to all trustees in giving freely of their time and expertise to support the staff team in working with members and in the running of DTAS itself.

The 2025 the Annual DTAS Conference and Annual General Meeting was held over 26th & 27th August at Glasgow Caledonian University. 273 people attended, including 194 DTAS members, and 79 community groups and associates/local authority/government/other agencies. The conference included a session on Common Sense, Common Good: Rebuilding Democracy with Andy Wightman, three short talks from development trusts, three study visits to DTAS members and 14 different workshops.

The DTAS Board and staff over the year have participated in strategy and planning sessions that resulted in a 3-year strategy and subsequent operational plans being launched in June 2024.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

The Scottish Government continued to be the principal funder of DTAS during 2025-2026. The organisation benefited from a core funding grant from the Third Sector Division which runs until 31st March 2026.

During the course of 2025/26, our Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) continued to be supported by a grant from the Scottish Government's Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division.

The posts of two Development Officers are dedicated to, and funded by, the Strengthening Communities Programme which also sits within the Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division of the Scottish Government and is shown as restricted funding in the Audited Accounts.

The Democratic Finance (DF) Scotland programme has been jointly grant funded by the Scottish Government Economy Directorate, Acorns to Trees and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. The Democratic Finance team has also been funded by Scottish Government / Local Energy Scotland / Energy Saving Trust to co-deliver the Community Energy Capacity Building Launchpad programme.

Over the year DTAS has received grant funding from Acorns to Trees (member support service, crisis support service and Green Shoots), William Grant Foundation (facilities management), UK wide Community Ownership Fund (in partnership with Locality, DTNI and DTA Wales). Since 2024, we have been delivering a three-year UK Community Connectors project alongside our 4 nations partnership, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. We have also secured funding for three years from Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver our churches programme. In 2025-26, we received the first payment of £2,500,000 from Foundation Scotland to deliver our Recovery & Resilience Programme.

DTAS remains committed to supplementing grant funding with self-generated income. This includes income from membership fees, conference and training events, some ad hoc project income, occasional consultancy work and commission from our DTAS Energy initiative.

Investment policy and objectives

Under the constitution, the charity has the power to invest any money that the charity does not immediately require in any investments, securities or properties. In 2024-25, the trustees reviewed DTAS' investment policy and agreed that in addition to keeping available funds in an interest-bearing current account and a one-year, high-interest charity bond account, DTAS would open a CAF Flagstone Deposit. Trustees continue to review investment to ensure charitable funds earn reasonable return on investment, at minimal risk, whilst having regard to the liquidity requirements of operation the charity and the reserves policy.

DTAS has a current lease at 1B Washington Lane which comes to an end in June 2028.

Reserves policy

In November 2025, the Finance & Resources sub-committee reviewed and updated DTAS' reserves policy as follows. The board has set a target to maintain its unrestricted reserves at a level equivalent to six months running costs for the organisation. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to mitigate against the risk of cashflow issues caused by delays in receiving government grant funding. This level also provides DTAS with the flexibility to alleviate DTAS member cashflow issues caused by such delays in receiving government grant funding that is administered by DTAS. Currently, unrestricted reserves stand at £351,171 which is greater than six months running costs.

The charity has an overall surplus of £1,737,495 (2025 surplus: £19,665) in the year. At the year end, the charity had unrestricted reserves of £351,175 (2025 £348,250) and restricted reserves of £2,094,983 (2025: £360,409).

FUTURE PLANS
DTAS will continue to drive progress towards the strategic goals set out in our 2024-2027 plan. These goals reflect our commitment to supporting resilient, community-led organisations and a thriving, inclusive infrastructure for communities in Scotland. Our strategic goals:

1. Advocacy and influencing - Community-led organisations are recognised as fundamental to the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of Scotland
DTAS will confidently and boldly influence and shape the environment, culture and policy that we work within and advocate for our members and community-led organisations.

2. Building resilient and strong community infrastructure - DTAS delivers high quality support services to advise, equip and help communities to thrive
DTAS will deliver tailored direct support through our membership offer and client support and will network with other sectoral partners to ensure delivery is accessible and relevant.

3. Communication, research and knowledge exchange - the impact of Development Trusts and community-led organisations is widely understood, celebrated and championed
We will seek to fully understand issues facing our sector, and their impact on them, and celebrate and promote their achievements.

4. Sustaining a strong, successful and reliable organisation - DTAS has the capacity and confidence to deliver our strategy
Aligning with our values, we will ensure that DTAS operates to the highest standard and performance in all aspects of our work.

The year ahead will see continued growth and evolution in our services, in direct response to the needs of our members and communities. As demand increases and the operating environment becomes more complex, we remain focused on providing meaningful support while actively shaping policy and legislative frameworks that impact the sector.

Member Support Team; Membership continues to grow across Scotland, with both aspiring and established development trusts seeking guidance from our expert team. A key priority is building resilience across the sector, and we will continue to enhance our enterprise toolkits, assessment frameworks, and tailored support offers. We are committed to standing with members through both challenges and opportunities-whether addressing crisis situations or supporting long-term recovery and sustainability. The Strengthening Communities Programme will also welcome a new cohort of funded organisations, each supported by our dedicated advisors to build strong foundations for success.

Democratic Finance Scotland; This year will continue to explore the significant potential to unlock new forms of community finance.

Key developments in the coming year include expanding the impact of community shares, exploring opportunities for shared ownership in renewables and further researching the potential of community bonds. Our work aims to provide communities with the tools and confidence to access democratic forms of investment and grow their financial resilience and we will continue to develop other forms of citizen investment.

Community Ownership Support Service (COSS)
With hundreds of churches and historic buildings facing closure, our dedicated churches programme will continue to deliver. COSS will support communities to explore ownership opportunities and make informed, sustainable decisions.

A comprehensive refresh of our training and toolkits is taking place to ensure communities have clear, up-to-date guidance through the Community Asset Transfer and Community Right to Buy processes. Our Facilities Management service will continue, helping communities address the challenges of running and maintaining their assets over the long term.

Central Support Services
Our central team continues to provide the essential backbone to DTAS's operations. Alongside core functions, they are leading the development of progressive internal policies and practices around wellbeing, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and environmental sustainability. Where appropriate, these resources will also be adapted for member use to support wider sectoral development.

Policy and Lobbying
DTAS continue with its policy and lobbying efforts this year, particularly in relation to the Local Governance Review and the implementation of Community Wealth Building strategies. We will also continue to engage on key themes including land reform, inclusive business models, renewable energy, and the legislative and financial landscape surrounding community ownership.

Our goal is to ensure that policy does not just enable community development in theory but actively supports and sustains it in practice - by shifting power, resources and responsibility to local communities.

The DTAS conference will be held in Glasgow again this year on 1st and 2nd September 2026, we have an ambitious and exciting programme of workshops, study visits and speakers. A range of sessions that will provide 200+ delegates with the opportunity to be inspired, learn, network and engage with each other.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

On 10th September, 2015 DTAS became registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and HM Revenue & Customs, governed by its SCIO constitution. The organisation was formerly a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status.

Recruitment and appointment of new directors

Nominations to be a trustee are sought from the membership and have to be submitted two weeks prior to the AGM. The composition of the board is as follows: up to 75% of trustees from the development trust membership (full and provisional), and up to 25% of trustees to come from among the associate membership. Each year, one third of the trustees must stand down at the AGM but are eligible for re-election. The nominations for election are put to the membership at the AGM and the full board is thereby elected. At their first meeting after the AGM the trustees elect their office bearers for the coming year. Further trustees can be co-opted by the board of trustees during the year.

Organisation

The full board of trustees meets quarterly. All trustees approve the annual budget, receive regular budget updates and consider and approve the annual audited accounts. A Finance and Resources sub-committee is delegated to consider matters of finance, budget management and human resources. This sub-committee meets on a quarterly basis and receives quarterly management accounts. The DTAS board of trustees also has a Policy and Communications sub-committee, which meets on a quarterly basis. Both sub-committees report to full board meetings.

As part of the quarterly DTAS Board meeting, the CEO produces a written report for the Trustees. This monitors activity and progress against the key objectives within the DTAS Operational Plan. The CEO has delegated powers to make day-to-day decisions regarding operations of the organisation. A work plan and budget are agreed between the CEO and the trustees and any significant variations are referred to the board for discussion.

During 2023-24, a working group of staff and trustees met to review DTAS' governance to ensure it is fit-for-purpose and in line with best practice. The findings and recommendations from the group were presented to the full board in May 2024 and approved. A number of governance changes are now being implemented.

Induction and training of new trustees

After election, an induction programme is offered to all new trustees. In addition, all trustees receive an information pack which contains copy of the constitution, roles and responsibilities of being a director / trustee, and background information on the charity.

Related parties

DTAS supports and represents development trusts throughout Scotland and has a close association with Locality, DTA Wales and DT Northern Ireland. DTAS is a founder member of, and active participant in, the Scottish Community Alliance, where it is represented on the executive committee. In addition, DTAS is involved in a wide range of collaborations with other relevant agencies and organisations.

Risk management

DTAS has an organisational risk register which is updated and discussed by the Finance and Resources sub-committee on a quarterly basis. The risks are categorised as governance, operational, financial, external and compliance with law and regulation. The register sets out how these risks are being mitigated and provides an update on outstanding actions.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

SC034231

Principal address
1B Washington Lane
Edinburgh
EH11 2HA

Auditors
Robb Ferguson
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Regent Court
70 West Regent Street
Glasgow
G2 2QZ

Key management personnel
Trustees - per above
Pauline Smith - Chief Executive
Kay Marwick - Head of Central Support Services

Bankers
The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC
142-144 Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4EQ

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued
Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 14 August 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:
D96FE8E9F08F418...
....
Graham Black - Trustee

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of Development Trusts Association Scotland

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Development Trusts Association Scotland (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditors under Section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our wider knowledge and experience;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and Financial Reporting Standards 102 Statement of Recommended Practice.
- We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- Identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:
- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Audit response to risks of irregularities identified
To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:
- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- Tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out were indicative of potential bias; and
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:
- Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- Reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- Requesting correspondence with HMRC, OSCR and the charity's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of Development Trusts Association Scotland

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:
Robb Ferguson
AC124D43650F4BD...

Robb Ferguson
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Regent Court
70 West Regent Street
Glasgow
G2 2QZ

Date: 14 August 2026

Development Trusts Association Scotland

Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	**2026 Total funds £**	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations, legacies and grants	2	**208,500**	**5,023,866**	**5,232,366**	2,540,442
Charitable activities	4				
Membership fees		**33,855**	**-**	**33,855**	33,595
Earned income		**43,213**	**-**	**43,213**	11,067
Conference and event income		**18,749**	**40,848**	**59,597**	52,633
Investment income	3	**38,525**	**48,015**	**86,540**	23,683
Total		**342,842**	**5,112,729**	**5,455,571**	2,661,420
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	5				
Charitable projects		**344,611**	**1,188,641**	**1,533,252**	1,281,335
Administration and support		**63,095**	**90,755**	**153,850**	172,846
Grants paid		**-**	**2,030,974**	**2,030,974**	1,187,574
Total		**407,706**	**3,310,370**	**3,718,076**	2,641,755
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(64,864)**	**1,802,359**	**1,737,495**	19,665
Transfers between funds	16	**67,785**	**(67,785)**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**2,921**	**1,734,574**	**1,737,495**	19,665
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**348,250**	**360,409**	**708,659**	688,994
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**351,171**	**2,094,983**	**2,446,154**	708,659

The notes form part of these financial statements

Development Trusts Association Scotland

Balance Sheet
31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	**390**	551
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	**1,707,557**	534,563
Cash at bank and in hand		**3,033,933**	850,853
		4,741,490	1,385,416
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	**(2,295,726)**	(677,308)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**2,445,764**	708,108
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**2,446,154**	708,659
NET ASSETS		**2,446,154**	708,659
FUNDS	16		
Unrestricted funds		**351,175**	348,250
Restricted funds		**2,094,979**	360,409
TOTAL FUNDS		**2,446,154**	708,659

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 14 August 2026 .... and were signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:
D96FE8E9F08F418..................

Graham Black - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Development Trusts Association Scotland

Cash Flow Statement
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	**2,183,080**	(29,519)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		**2,183,080**	(29,519)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**2,183,080**	(29,519)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**850,853**	880,372
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		**3,033,933**	850,853

The notes form part of these financial statements

Development Trusts Association Scotland

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2026	2025
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	**1,737,495**	19,665
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**163**	648
Increase in debtors	**(1,172,995)**	(913,924)
Increase in creditors	**1,618,417**	864,092
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	**2,183,080**	(29,519)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.25	Cash flow	At 31.3.26
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	**850,853**	**2,183,080**	**3,033,933**
	850,853	**2,183,080**	**3,033,933**
Total	**850,853**	**2,183,080**	**3,033,933**

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty
The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities reported at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for revenue and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements and estimates have had the most significant effects on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Deferred Income
The estimates and assumptions used to determine deferred income requires judgements to be made around the charity's progress through a contract. This estimation is determined by management annually and reviewed to ensure the correct proportion of income is deferred where required.

Accrued Expenditure
The estimates and assumptions used to determine accrued expenditure requires judgement from management around future costs. These costs are not always known at the year end and management estimates the cost incurred to the year end based upon the work performed to this date. Historically, management's estimation of accrued expenditure has not resulted in material changes to the charity's expenditure.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Income is shown net of VAT. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. Income is deferred when performance related grants are received in advance of the performances or event to which they relate.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned (as related goods and services are provided).

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. The charity is registered for VAT and any irrecoverable VAT is charged to the income statement separately from the resources expended to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Office equipment - 33.33% on cost and 25% on reducing balance

Related party exemption
The charity has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.

 continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation
The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Defined contributions pension scheme
The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable in the year are charged to the statement of financial activities.

Investments
Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less impairment.

2. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS

	2026	2025
	£	£
Grants	**4,888,906**	2,189,101
Democratic finance	**334,630**	240,317
Community ownership fund	**8,830**	111,024
	5,232,366	2,540,442

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Scottish Government - COSS	**350,000**	350,000
Scottish Government - Core	**208,000**	208,000
Scottish Government - SCP	**1,155,989**	1,131,553
Acorns to Trees	**352,905**	333,900
William Grant Foundation	**40,404**	38,980
Scottish University Land Unit	**-**	22,500
Locality Community Connectors UK	**110,224**	85,000
Historic Environment Scotland	**41,115**	8,186
National Lottery Heritage Fund	**130,269**	10,982
Foundation Scotland	**2,500,000**	-
	4,888,906	2,189,101

COSS	Community Ownership Support Services
SCP	Strengthening Communities Programme (formerly Investing in Communities Fund)
P&P	Pockets and Prospects Project

 continued...

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Bank interest	**86,530**	23,678
Exceptional items	**10**	5
	86,540	23,683

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2026	2025
		£	£
Membership fees	Membership fees	**33,855**	33,595
Earned income	Earned income	**43,213**	11,067
Conference and event income	Conference and event income	**59,597**	52,633
		136,665	97,295

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 6)	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable projects	**1,522,934**	**10,318**	**1,533,252**
Administration and support	**141,325**	**12,525**	**153,850**
Grants paid	**2,030,974**	**-**	**2,030,974**
	3,695,233	**22,843**	**3,718,076**

Breakdown of grants paid during the year is noted within the below link:

https://dtascot.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Grants-breakdown-for-accountants-2025-26.xlsx

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable projects	**-**	**10,318**	**10,318**
Administration and support	**12,525**	**-**	**12,525**
	12,525	**10,318**	**22,843**

continued...

7. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2026 £	2025 £
Fees payable to the charity's auditors for the audit of the charity's financial statements	**7,100**	6,750

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

No trustees received remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2026 (2025 - None).

Trustees' expenses

	2026 £	2025 £
Trustees' expenses	3,218	3,857

Trustees' expenses in 2026 relate to travel and accommodation costs paid to 12 members of the board of directors.

Trustees' expenses in 2025 relate to travel and accommodation costs paid to 10 members of the board of directors..

9. STAFF COSTS

	2026 £	2025 £
Wages and salaries	**1,045,585**	858,526
Social security costs	**120,268**	78,115
Other pension costs	**122,123**	102,394
	1,287,976	1,039,035

Amounts payable to key management personnel in the year was £128,990 (2025 - £123,778).

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2026	2025
Enterprise	**-**	1
Charitable projects	**26**	20
Administration and support	**3**	5
	29	26

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Pension contributions of £122,123 (2025 - £102,394) were made to employee's defined contribution schemes. There were outstanding contributions of £1,748 (2025 - £2,376) at the balance sheet date.

continued...

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations, legacies and grants	214,050	2,326,392	2,540,442
Charitable activities			
Membership fees	33,595	-	33,595
Earned income	5,800	5,267	11,067
Conference and event income	52,633	-	52,633
Investment income	23,683	-	23,683
Total	329,761	2,331,659	2,661,420
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable projects	315,842	965,493	1,281,335
Administration and support	63,056	109,790	172,846
Grants paid	-	1,187,574	1,187,574
Total	378,898	2,262,857	2,641,755
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(49,137)	68,802	19,665
Transfers between funds	63,800	(63,800)	-
Net movement in funds	14,663	5,002	19,665
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	333,586	355,408	688,994
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	348,249	360,410	708,659

continued...

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2025	**56,980**
Disposals	**(28,351)**
At 31 March 2026	**28,629**
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2025	**56,429**
Charge for year	**162**
Eliminated on disposal	**(28,352)**
At 31 March 2026	**28,239**
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2026	**390**
At 31 March 2025	551

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	**2,559**	66,215
VAT	**12,345**	-
Prepayments, accrued income and other debtors	**1,692,653**	468,348
	1,707,557	534,563

Prepayments, accrued income and other debtors includes accrued income of £1,639,729 which relates to funding for 2026/27.

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	**12,720**	6,150
Social security and other taxes	**27,476**	19,756
VAT	**-**	2,652
Other creditors and deferred income	**1,766,399**	522,070
Accrued expenses	**489,131**	126,680
	2,295,726	677,308

Other creditors and deferred income includes deferred income of £1,639,729 which relates to funding for 2026/27.

continued...

14. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Within one year	**18,558**	47,273
Between one and five years	**-**	12,254
	18,558	59,527

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

			2026	2025
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	**£**	£
Fixed assets	**360**	**30**	**390**	551
Current assets	**640,784**	**4,100,706**	**4,741,490**	1,385,416
Current liabilities	**(289,969)**	**(2,005,757)**	**(2,295,726)**	(677,308)
	351,175	**2,094,979**	**2,446,154**	708,659

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.25	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.26
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	**348,250**	**(64,860)**	**67,785**	**351,175**
Restricted funds				
Community Ownership Support Services	**73,644**	**23,674**	**(40,673)**	**56,645**
Strengthening Communities Programme	**4,956**	**25,270**	**(4,000)**	**26,226**
Pockets & Prospects	**27,429**	**(1,194)**	**-**	**26,235**
Scottish Land Commission	**2,134**	**-**	**-**	**2,134**
Acorns to Trees	**83,842**	**36,661**	**-**	**120,503**
William Grant Foundation	**5,751**	**(15,268)**	**9,517**	**-**
Democratic Finance	**72,185**	**66,297**	**(29,500)**	**108,982**
Community Ownership Fund	**58,764**	**7,330**	**-**	**66,094**
Democracy Matters	**7,863**	**(7,801)**	**-**	**62**
Scottish University Land Unit	**(1,656)**	**-**	**1,656**	**-**
Locality Community Connectors UK	**25,497**	**18,525**	**(4,800)**	**39,222**
Churches	**-**	**4,391**	**-**	**4,391**
Foundation Scotland	**-**	**1,644,485**	**-**	**1,644,485**
CARES Capacity Building	**-**	**(15)**	**15**	**-**
	360,409	**1,802,355**	**(67,785)**	**2,094,979**
TOTAL FUNDS	**708,659**	**1,737,495**	**-**	**2,446,154**

continued...

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**342,842**	**(407,702)**	**(64,860)**
Restricted funds			
Community Ownership Support Services	**350,378**	**(326,704)**	**23,674**
Strengthening Communities Programme	**1,155,987**	**(1,130,717)**	**25,270**
Pockets & Prospects	**-**	**(1,194)**	**(1,194)**
Acorns to Trees	**353,432**	**(316,771)**	**36,661**
William Grant Foundation	**43,806**	**(59,074)**	**(15,268)**
Democratic Finance	**337,414**	**(271,117)**	**66,297**
Community Ownership Fund	**8,080**	**(750)**	**7,330**
Democracy Matters	**-**	**(7,801)**	**(7,801)**
Locality Community Connectors UK	**110,749**	**(92,224)**	**18,525**
Churches	**171,385**	**(166,994)**	**4,391**
Foundation Scotland	**2,544,858**	**(900,373)**	**1,644,485**
CARES Capacity Building	**36,640**	**(36,655)**	**(15)**
	5,112,729	**(3,310,374)**	**1,802,355**
TOTAL FUNDS	**5,455,571**	**(3,718,076)**	**1,737,495**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	333,586	(49,136)	63,800	348,250
Restricted funds				
Community Ownership Support Services	84,555	35,928	(46,839)	73,644
Strengthening Communities Programme	4,646	310	-	4,956
Pockets & Prospects	27,429	-	-	27,429
Scottish Land Commission	2,134	-	-	2,134
Acorns to Trees	70,698	13,144	-	83,842
William Grant Foundation	20,372	(31,960)	17,339	5,751
Democratic Finance	103,133	(1,448)	(29,500)	72,185
Hub & Spoke	13,000	(13,000)	-	-
Community Ownership Fund	19,001	39,763	-	58,764
Democracy Matters	10,196	(2,333)	-	7,863
Scottish University Land Unit	244	(1,900)	-	(1,656)
Locality Community Connectors UK	-	30,297	(4,800)	25,497
	355,408	68,801	(63,800)	360,409
TOTAL FUNDS	688,994	19,665	-	708,659

continued...

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	329,761	(378,897)	(49,136)
Restricted funds			
Community Ownership Support Services	351,518	(315,590)	35,928
Strengthening Communities Programme	1,131,553	(1,131,243)	310
Acorns to Trees	333,900	(320,756)	13,144
William Grant Foundation	38,980	(70,940)	(31,960)
Democratic Finance	243,173	(244,621)	(1,448)
Hub & Spoke	-	(13,000)	(13,000)
Community Ownership Fund	104,974	(65,211)	39,763
Democracy Matters	-	(2,333)	(2,333)
Scottish University Land Unit	22,500	(24,400)	(1,900)
Locality Community Connectors UK	85,893	(55,596)	30,297
Churches	19,168	(19,168)	-
	2,331,659	(2,262,858)	68,801
TOTAL FUNDS	2,661,420	(2,641,755)	19,665

Unrestricted funds
Unrestricted income is income granted, donated or earned by DTA Scotland to be used at the discretion of the directors to fund any activity which is in furtherance of DTA Scotland's objectives.

Restricted funds
Community Ownership Fund is a fund for communities across the United Kingdom to help communities take ownership of assets at risk of closure. DTAS is providing development support for potential community project to strengthen applications

The Strengthening Communities Programme fund represents monies granted to fund a post to oversee the programme for the Scottish Government Regeneration Unit.

Pockets & Prospects is the continuation of The Local Resilience Fund Pilot Project with a slightly wider remit and represents monies granted from the Scottish Government to support grass roots organisations to build community capacity and resilience and tackle the effects of welfare reform and inequality.

Scottish Land Commission funded a Vacant & Derelict Land Project to support communities develop and implement proposals to bring long term derelict sites back into productive use.

Acorns to Trees provides funding which enables a mutually successful partnership based on achieving measurable success around their philanthropic aspirations which are Empowering Communities, Enabling Integration, Building a Better Society.

William Grant Foundation funding is used to deliver the Facilities Management Pilot Programme which will provide communities with support in the operational, technical and legal requirements of community owned and managed assets.

Community Shares Scotland programme promotes community shares and supports organisations through a successful community share offer.

 continued...

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Democracy Matters process through a series of dedicated activities that will facilitate shared dialogue with and within the community sector on their aspirations and opportunities for greater decision making powers as proposed by the Local Governance Review.

Community Connectors is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, led by Locality (UK) and the other partners are DTAS, Development Trusts Northern Ireland, Development Trusts Association Wales. It funds a range of activities to support development trusts to develop better connections within their communities.

New Futures Programme - Former Places of Worship is a three-year programme funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland to provide enhanced support to community groups considering taking on a listed church across Scotland.

Foundation Scotland funding is used to support the Recovery & Resilience Programme. The purpose of the funding is to provide financial support to DTAS members facing critical operational challenges that has caused crisis or could escalate into crisis and to support the recovery and long-term resilience of DTAS members.

Sufficient resources are held in an appropriate form to enable each fund to be applied in accordance with any restriction.

17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2026.

18. NON-AUDIT SERVICES PROVIDED BY AUDITOR

In common with other companies of our size we use our auditor to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.