

Lauderdale Community Development Trust

Together for our shared future

LCDT Update - 19/06/26

Some questions you have been asking:

What is a community development trust?

It is a community-led organisation that takes action to improve the place where it is based –in our case, the whole of Lauderdale. It is led by local people and works to create positive lasting change, building wealth in an area, and keeping it there.

- Community led and community run
- Made up of local members who shape key decisions
- Independent but works in partnership with others
- Enterprise driven -generates income to stay sustainable
- Focused on re-investing profits into a wide range of local issues (social, economic, environmental)

Why do we need a Community Development Trust in Lauderdale?

Until LCDT was formed, there was no overarching strategic body within Lauderdale that can reassure funders that we have a strategic plan for improvements in Lauderdale that the community wants. LCDT provides that reassurance. And there was no overarching body that could apply for funding. The CAP showed the gap.

- LCDT will seek funding and support local organisations.
- The CAP and LCDT members will guide LCDT's direction.
- Now we have LCDT incorporated we are well on the way to joining DTAS (the Development Trust Association Scotland) which enables us to access their advice and support, as well as apply for funding through their government--supported funding streams. DTAS has already given us a lot of support, and Pamela Barnes from DTAS came to our launch on 26th May 2026.

FURTHER NEWS

- LCDT is now an incorporated company limited by guarantee. Our articles are all compatible with our charitable purposes, and we are applying for charitable status. We have three founder-directors (Charlotte Aitchison, Marilyn Aitkenhead and Emma McNeill).
- LCC kindly donated £500 to help us get set up.
- We had our successful launch on 26th May. Over 20 people came, and we had two external speakers. Pamela Barnes from DTAS came and explained all about DTs and answered everyone's questions. And Lara Porter came and gave us an inspiring account of the Eskdale Community Hub community asset transfer, which she had managed for several years (its worth a visit!).
- We now have 45 members. This is a great start. We could do with more and especially junior members (aged 12-15).
- We are applying for funding. A top priority in the CAP is to explore the viability of the potential asset transfer of our public hall, and funding will enable us to start that process.

LCDT MEMBERSHIP

- Do consider joining us if you live in Lauderdale. Your voice is really important. Membership is free and as a member you can attend members' meetings, and share your views, and vote on issues. Full members (aged 16+ and resident in Lauderdale) elect the Board of Directors at each AGM. You might even consider standing for election yourself!
- You can pick up membership forms at Weigh Greener, or at the Firebrick Bakery, and return them there, or email lcdtmembers@gmail.com and we can send you a form to complete.
- Our first members' meeting will be held on 23rd September 2026 at 7.30pm in The Smiddy near the Leisure Centre. The agenda will be an update and election of Board members. Further details will be sent out to all members nearer the time.

We are grateful for the support of local volunteers, LCC and DTAS