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To: elaine@scotlandstowns.org
Subject: Scotland's Towns and Improvement Districts | News | Events |



Scotland's Towns & Improvement Districts News

A bulletin from [Scotland's Towns Partnership](#) and [Scotland's Improvement Districts](#)

Dear Elaine,

Welcome to the April 2022 bulletin from [Scotland's Towns Partnership](#) and [Scotland's Improvement Districts](#).

We hope you enjoy our latest update on news, events and support for towns and improvement districts. In this newsletter:

1. New Future for Scotland's Towns
2. Membership survey
3. Investing in Communities Fund

4. News
5. Upcoming events
6. New members

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you are not already, you can become an STP member to receive priority funding updates, and free & discounted sign-up to events, among many other benefits. You can also sign-up to our newsletter to receive our regular bulletins.



1. New Future for Scotland's Towns



"This approach will help us deliver the entrepreneurship ambitions set out in the National Strategy for Economic Transformation by creating enterprising communities."

Tom Arthur
Minister for Public Finance,
Planning and Community Wealth
.....



In response to last year's review of the Town Centre Action Plan, a joint report by the Scottish Government and COSLA outlines actions to better embed a 'Town Centre First' approach to meet the needs of communities and tackle climate change. This joint response builds on work to support town centres during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the Scottish Government's Town Centre First approach, developed following the National Review of Town Centres in 2013. This approach aims to ensure the economic, social and environmental health of town centres is at the heart of decision making.

Professor Leigh Sparks of the University of Stirling chaired the Town Centre Action Plan Review, alongside members from COSLA, the Royal Town Planning Institute, South of

Scotland Enterprise, the Carnegie Trust, the Federation of Small Businesses, Public Health Scotland, Sustrans, Inclusion Scotland and the Scottish Government.

[Read the report here](#)

2. Have your say in our membership survey!



We would love to know your thoughts! Please spare 5 minutes to fill in our short survey to help inform our services.

[Complete survey](#)

3. Investing in Communities Fund



Round 2 of the Investing in Communities Fund- 2023-2026 is expected to open for applications in April 2022.

The Investing in Communities Fund (ICF) is a streamlined communities fund that is delivered as part of the Empowering Communities Programme. The fund reflects the Scottish Government's commitment to investing in communities so that they can develop the resources and resilience to decide their own aspirations, priorities and solutions in response. The fund supports our most disadvantaged or fragile communities to tackle poverty in all its forms on their own terms.

For more information, including draft funding guidance, click the link below:

[More info](#)

4. News



New tourism body wants visitors to make “conscious choice” to support Scotland’s local communities

A new national tourism body is urging visitors to support community owned tourism enterprises across Scotland and deliver a boost for local jobs and services as the sector rebuilds after Covid-19.

Scottish Community Tourism (SCOTO) is a new network of around 100 community owned tourism organisations and enterprises. Its aim is to promote and represent the growing number of community run tourism ventures across Scotland.

[Find out more](#)



Brollies above the Business District

Aberdeen City Centre BID, Aberdeen Inspired, is set to play host to a quirky colourful art installation to raise awareness and understanding of ADHD and autism.

The iconic installation will feature a canopy of hundreds of vibrant, colourful umbrellas suspended across the city streets.

[Read more](#)



BID to invest £1.8M in Stirling over next five years

Projections based on the amount of capital from levy payers plus the extra grant funding the BID expects to leverage indicate an expected income in excess of £1.8M.

All monies raised by Go Forth, a not-for-profit company, are reinvested in Stirling to provide additional or improved services identified by local businesses.

[Read more](#)



City set to host Street Art Festival this summer

Aberdeen Inspired today announced that the city and its walls will once again act as the canvas to a host of world class street artists as part Nuart Aberdeen 2022 which is set to return to the city from Thursday 9 until Sunday 12 June.

[Find out more](#)



Local Gift Cards drive retail and hospitality recovery in Scotland

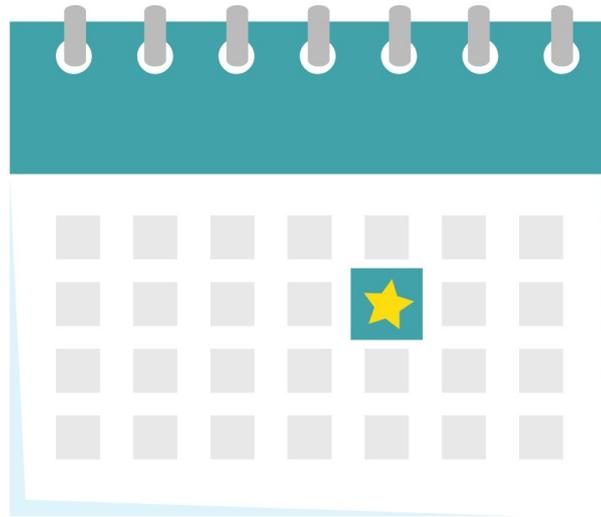
Two years on from the onset of pandemic restrictions, a business leader is highlighting the power of local gift cards to drive retail and hospitality recovery in Scotland

Payments provider Miconex says that independent retail and hospitality businesses were the most popular places for consumers to spend their local gift cards in 2021.

[Read more](#)

We love hearing your good news! Please send any news or event updates you wish to share with our network to hollie@scotlandstowns.org.

7. Upcoming Events



Dates for your diary:

31 May (10:30 – 12:00) Town Centre Action Plan 2 Ministerial Launch (Live Broadcast from Galashiels)

7 June (14:00 – 15:30) Town Centre Action Plan 2: North East Focus (Online)

8 June (12:45 – 13:45) Cross Party Group on Towns & Town Centres: 'Town Centres Beyond Retail' (Online)

8 June (14:30 – 16:00) Annual Town Tea Party and AGM (Online). Featuring Town Centre Action Plan 2: Lothians Focus and announcement of Scotland Loves Local Awards 2022.

24 August (10:00 12:00) Town Centre Action Plan 2 Roadshow Inverness (In-Person and Livestream)

31 August (10:00 – 12:00) Town Centre Action Plan 2 Roadshow Stirling (In-Person and Livestream)

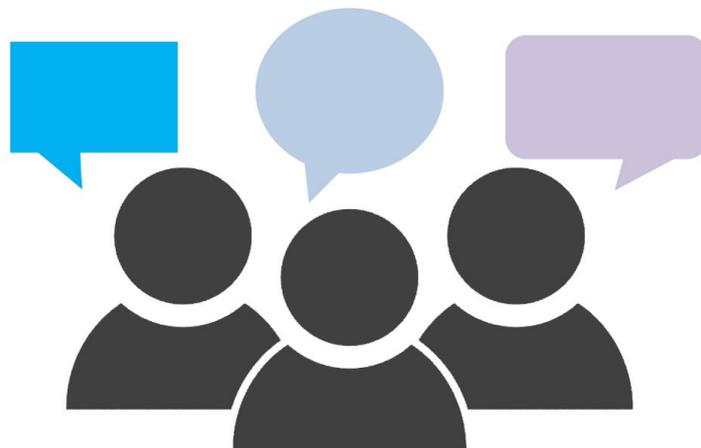
14 September (10:00 – 12:00) Town Centre Action Plan 2 Roadshow South West (In-Person and Livestream). Location TBA

Further info and links to follow soon.

You can access event reports of past STP events, including the recent Town Centre Action Plan Review Series, via the link below.

[Event reports](#)

6. STP Welcomes New Members



We are pleased that Scotland's towns network continues to grow! Since our last update, we would like to welcome the following new members:

Ceres & District Community Council

Huntly Development Trust

Sustainable Drumchapel

RICS

You can view a full list of our members [here](#).

STP members enjoy a range of benefits, including priority updates to our monthly Funding Finder and free or discounted attendance at our events.

[Join today!](#)

If you have any queries about the contents of this newsletter, please don't hesitate to [get in touch](#) with Scotland's Towns Partnership.

You can also sign-up to our newsletter to receive our regular bulletins such as this one.

[Sign up to our newsletter](#)

Scotland's Towns Partnership

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