

**From:** Scotland's Towns Partnership <elaine@scotlandstowns.org>  
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## Scotland's Towns & Improvement Districts News

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

Dear Elaine,

Welcome to the January 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 news bulletin we cover:

1. Scotland Loves Local Gift card
2. Town Toolkit
3. Our Place
4. Transport Consultation
5. News

- 6. Upcoming events
- 7. 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](#) for funding updates, and free & discounted sign-up to events, among many other benefits. You can also [sign-up to our regular bulletins](#).



## 1. Support your local area in 2022 with the Scotland Loves Local



The Scotland Loves Local Gift Card is the perfect way to support your local businesses and services this year as we navigate the pandemic.

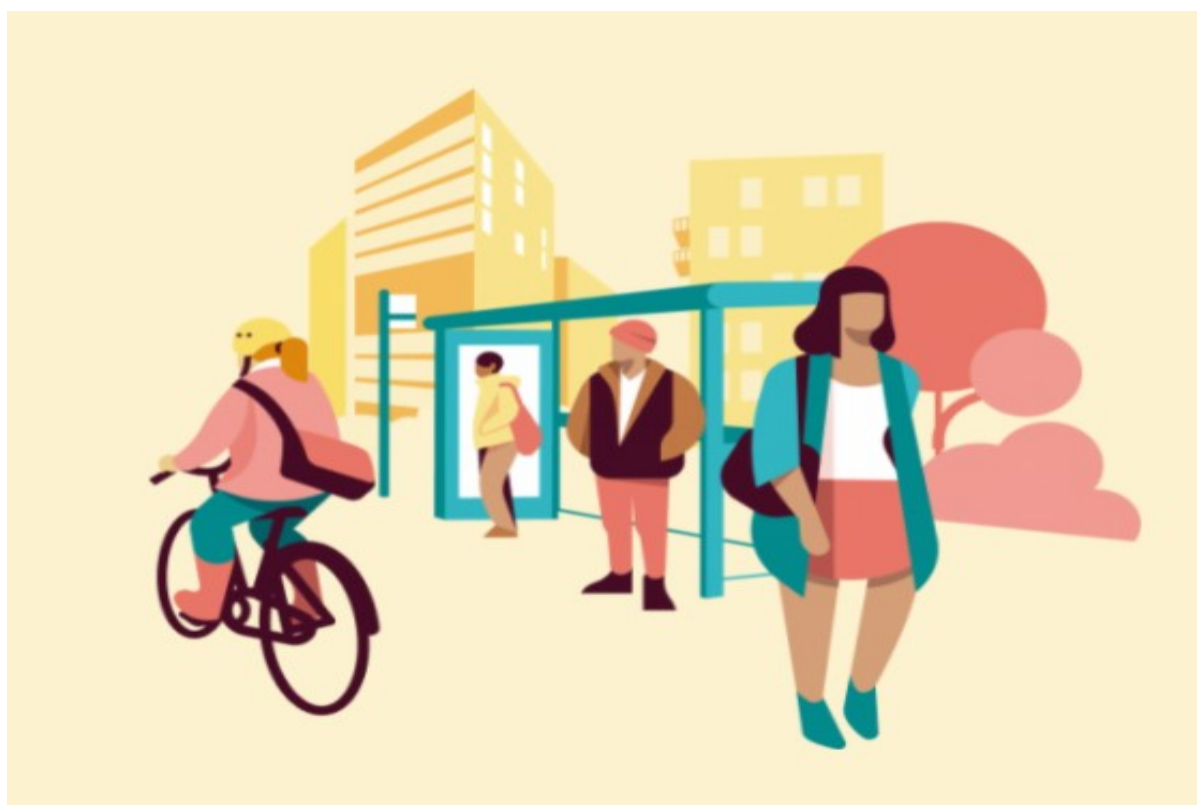
A gift to the whole community, the gift card keeps spend within local economies, protecting jobs and ensuring the

It's also quick and easy to register your business to accept the gift card. Follow the simple step-by-step guide on the button below:

Buy Gift Card

Register my business

## 2. Town Toolkit - Improve your town in 2022



This Toolkit is designed to be a source of [inspiration](#) for anyone who wants to make their town centre better. Whether you are a local authority, community group, business, social enterprise or other organisation – you will find ideas here that you can use.

The aim of the Toolkit is to put Scotland's policy approach to town centres into practice. It shows how you can work with other organisations in your town centre to deliver the [Town Centre First Principle](#), the [Place Principle](#) and the [People Principle](#).

By using this Toolkit in your town centre, you'll be doing your bit to contribute to Scotland's big future challenges: climate change, emergency, health and wellbeing, inclusive growth, inequalities and community empowerment.

### 3. 'Our Place' resource launched



The partnership behind the Place Standard tool have developed a new website devoted to promoting the benefits of place-based working.

The site is designed to support communities, third and public sectors to take forward place-based approaches, highlighting differences across Scotland.

If you would like to share any feedback on the site, or discuss how Our Place can help support you then please get in touch at [PlaceStandard@gov.scot](mailto:PlaceStandard@gov.scot)

[Visit Our Place](#)

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## 4. Consultation on on the draft second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) for Scotland



This consultation is on the draft second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) for Scotland. The review will inform Scottish Ministers decisions on transport investment in Scotland for the next 20 years.

STPR2 is one of the mechanisms for delivering the Vision, Priorities and Outcomes of the second National Transport Strategy. It is an important tool for achieving the Government's commitment to 20% reduction in vehicle kilometres by 2030 and Scotland's net zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2045 - also addressing inequalities, improving health and contributing to inclusive economic growth.

The consultation closes on 15th April 2022.

[Have your say](#)

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## 5. News





### Visit Inverness Loch Ness becomes first carbon neutral BID in the UK

Tourism Improvement District [Visit Inverness Loch Ness \(VILN\)](#) has become the first carbon neutral Business Improvement District in the UK. Currently, there are 330 BIDs in the UK.

VILN has completely offset its emissions for 2019 to 2021, making the organisation completely carbon neutral. They have planted two corporate groves with charity [Trees for Life](#). Trees have been planted in the grove already and the organisation will plant a tree every time VILN produces a tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>.

[Read more](#)





### **Businesses urged to stand under umbrella project**

Canopies of colourful umbrellas are set to arrive in Aberdeen this summer as part of a new charity partnership.

City centre BID Aberdeen Inspired is working with the ADHD Foundation to create a colourful umbrella installation. Streets including Langstane Place, Shiprow, Chapel Street and Belmont Street being considered as possible locations.

Featuring multi-coloured umbrellas suspended across city centre streets, the displays aim to raise awareness of the 'umbrella' term of neurodiversity, including ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyspraxia.

[Read more](#)



### **Multi-generational love for local drives Gift Card sales in Scotland**

Local gift cards are widening their appeal across Scotland, and across the generations, says payments provider [redacted]. The 10 areas of the UK with the highest gift card sales in 2021, including 5 in Scotland.

Aberdeen, East Ayrshire, Perth, East Lothian, Kirkwall, Cambridge, Belfast, Barnsley, York and Enniskillen recorded over £1 million for their local Town & City Gift Cards in 2021, a 32% increase on 2020.

[Read more](#)

**We love hearing your good news! Please send any news or event updates you wish to share with our network at [hollie@scotlandstowns.org](mailto:hollie@scotlandstowns.org).**



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## 6. Upcoming Events

### Scotland's Towns Partnership TCAP2 Learning Events on Digital, Climate, Heritage and Tourism

More news to follow soon!

### Towns and Towns Centres Cross Party Group Dates for Diary

9th March and 8th June at 12.45 - 1.45pm (online).

### Walkable communities: Two part webinar with Living Streets Scotland - 8th February & 22nd February, 10am

Living Streets Scotland are delighted to invite you to their two-part webinar series which offers a fresh perspective on infrastructure: what it is and how to get it. They encourage local authorities, active travel advocates, and equalities officers to join their mission to find a route to walkable neighbourhoods that everyone can travel.

[Register for Part 1](#)

[Register for Part 2](#)

### Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge - Sustrans Scotland: 1-31st March

You are invited to take part in the [Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge](#) this March. Sign up as an individual, a team or a workplace by leaving your car behind and logging your sustainable journeys. And for the first time, if you are working in Scotland, you can also record your local journeys too!

Simply register online to log the journeys you make by foot, bike, scooter, public transport and car-share. Over £40,000 worth of [Loves Local cards](#) are up for grabs for use at hundreds of shops in your local area.

Register before 1st March to enter the Early Bird prize draw where you can win a £30 Scotland Loves Local card!

[Register for Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge](#)

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## 7. STP Welcomes New Members

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

- Philip Whiting, Moorgarth Group Ltd
- Reni Milburn, Moray Council
- Julie Hogg, SOSE
- Pauline Moffat, Cyrenians OPAL
- Luke Fraser, ASPIRE Orkney
- Ruby Merriman, Stromness Community Development Trust
- Paul Hughes, River Clyde Homes Housing Association
- Hayley Flanagan
- Steven Whitehouse

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 access to our events. [Read more and join today!](#)

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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

<http://www.scotlandstowns.org/>

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