

How can Development Trusts benefit my community?



Development Trusts are flexible organisations that own and manage land and assets in a partnership with other organisations and companies such as public and private bodies as well as companies from the voluntary sector. Development Trusts can be not for profit focusing on democratic decision making and affordability.

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The Trusts are mainly used to bring regeneration to an area but no two Trusts are the same as they are used to meet an identified need in a specific area. However, Development Trusts focus on meeting the needs of the community rather than private profit. They are particular useful in delivering long term sustainable projects with an emphasis on community benefit.

Development Trusts are used to deliver economic, environmental and community services to areas of decline or disadvantage. The main focus is on delivering new jobs and skills as well as places of recreation.

The most successful projects have brought the community together through engagement work as well as delivered projects that private or statutory organisations may have struggled with.

The legal structure may be part of their success. In general, Development Trusts are delivered as Company limited by guarantee which means it has member instead of shareholders. This means that all surpluses are recycled back into the company for future projects instead of going to private shareholders. A voluntary board oversees the overall management of the company whilst paid staff carried out the day to day duties.

More information can be found [here](#).