

Membership of the Development Trusts Association Wales

If you wish to apply for **Full Membership** or **Associate Membership** or as an **Emerging Development Trust**, please complete our Membership Application Form

Or telephone us on 029 2019 0260, or email info@dtawales.org.uk for further details.

Development Trusts Association Wales
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Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
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This information leaflet and the application forms are also available in Welsh

Our members are our strength

We are the community-based regeneration network

The Development Trusts Association is a UK wide community-based regeneration and enterprise network, with our sister organisations known as Locality in England, DTA Scotland and DTNI, in Northern Ireland. DTA was formed by practitioners elected from its development trust members in 1992. A number of the development trusts in Wales were original founding members of the Development Trusts Association.

The Development Trusts Association Wales provides support to and is the membership body for the development trusts in Wales. It was established in January 2003 with the support of the Welsh Assembly Government to provide support in Wales for the existing network of Development Trusts to operate well and for communities and organisations that wish to establish new development trusts and to promote good practice and a practitioner based learning network in Wales.

We are now leaders in the community owned asset development, regeneration and community and social enterprise sectors and are fast growing movement. In Wales, there are currently 40 development trusts (full members) .The UK membership is more than 900 Members throughout the U.K.

Building Sustainable Communities and Development Trusts

The Development Trusts Association's mission is *'to bring about a successful development trust in every community that wants one'*. Ultimately, our goal is to help our members bring about significant and sustainable transformation in their communities and to develop community ownership and create and retain wealth locally.

We help members grow and thrive by encouraging innovation, resilience and creativity through networking and Peer to Peer mutual support, by sharing best practise, by developing new enterprises and services, by building business skills, and by improving quality and diversity. We create new partnerships and a better policy context and financial investment by championing the values, achievements and benefits of development trusts.

Everything we do is driven by our members

Our network members are local practitioners focused on action and delivering social and community enterprises and that is our great strength. Our Members' diverse skills, practical expertise and track record in Wales and across the UK mean that there is a wealth of practical support, skills, mutual learning, peer support and inspiration that can be accessed when you join the DTA network. The DTA network's achievements and credibility also means we can influence policy and represent development trust views at a strategic level with government at a national, regional and local level and with private and other third sector bodies.

Our impact is across the UK

The DTA operates across Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland and has growing international links with social economy organisations sharing a common agenda, such as the Settlement Association. DTA Wales was established in 2003 with an office for Wales in Cardiff, and currently five staff.

Associate Members

If you are not a development trust but support our aims and values and would like to become a partner in our movement, we would be delighted to welcome you as an **Associate Member**. Our Associate Members across the UK include local not-for-profit organisations, local authorities, business organisations, funders and intermediary lenders, housing organisations, government agencies, regeneration partners in the public and voluntary sector, Groundwork Trusts, rural development networks, community councils, councils of voluntary service, community foundations, co-op development agencies, enterprise agencies, consultancy practices, educational institutions and individuals.

Full Members

Full Membership of the Development Trusts Association Wales and Development Trusts Association is open to development trusts, community owned enterprise and 'anchor organisations'. You can also become an emerging member if you are an **Emerging Development Trust** (working towards becoming a development trust).

Development trusts are defined as organisations which are:

Engaged in the economic, environmental and social regeneration of a defined area or community

By this, we mean setting up and running an integrated and inclusive range of community enterprises, assets, services or facilities, which respond to the needs of a community.

DTA members for example are involved in community 'asset development' (including ownership and management of property and land), managed workspace, community businesses and economic development, arts and cultural industries, sports and leisure facilities, retail and market space, town centre regeneration and management, sustainable building products and restoration, environmental improvement, renewable energy, housing, heritage projects, community transport, young people's projects, education, employment skills and training, information services, health centres, countryside management, horticulture and agriculture, tourism and cultural industries and so on. Some members also give grants to support such activities, but this by itself does not define an organisation as a development trust.

Development trusts are found in inner cities, rural areas, on peripheral housing estates, in market and coastal towns and former coal mining and industrial areas. All have a defined sense of locality and place.

Aiming for financial sustainability through trading or delivering services as community enterprises

Development trusts are in the business of sustainable transformation and change. Development trusts, as independent social and community enterprise organisations, aim to avoid over-dependence on a single funder and also aim to reduce dependence on grant aid in the long term. In order to generate diverse income streams and become sustainable development trusts may create an income-earning asset base and build up trading operations, offer a range of community services, develop enterprises or secure income through delivery of contracts or services.

We recognise that in poor communities there is often a 'social deficit' and 'investment' funding and contributions from public or charitable funds may continue to be necessary to deliver long term sustainable regeneration and meet this deficit or in recognition of the vital community services provided..

Not for private profit

Surpluses are applied to the social objectives of the development trust rather than for private gain.

There is no standard organisational form or legal status for a development trust. Most register as a company limited by guarantee and in a few cases as a Community Interest Company or Community Benefit Societies. Many register as Charities or Charitable Incorporated Organisations. We can also accept into full membership organisations which are clearly committed to becoming development trusts as 'Emerging Members' and subscribe to the above key principles and our values.

Community based and owned

Development trusts are driven by and accountable to their community in various ways. Some have Boards, elected by a ballot of all those in the area, others have a membership base from which elections can be made. Others have a structure in which community groups, the local authority, local businesses and others are represented as local stakeholders. Others have arrangements to safeguard balance between sectors or interest groups or involve a mix of people through co-options. Most trusts also derive their community legitimacy not only through constitutional arrangements but also from day to day practice – the ways in which they involve local people in our work in decision making and in the running community enterprises or services and undertaking social audits to evidence this approach.

Independent yet actively involved in partnerships and alliances between the community, voluntary, private and public sectors

Development trusts occupy the place where the business, public, community and voluntary sectors meet. This is a position of unique strength, but also means that for a development trust to realise its potential it must build active alliances with all these sectors. An organisation which works in an isolated, exclusive or sectarian way is not a development trust.

DTA WALES MEMBERS BENEFITS

Together, we can achieve great things!

By joining DTA Wales you become part of a practitioner learning network and the more you put in the more you get out!

What you give and what you get

The Development Trusts Association Wales operates on principles of mutuality. When you join we expect Members to:

- Share experience, ideas and information, with other members of DTA Wales, and likeminded community anchor organisations and enterprises, across the UK, as part of a practitioner learning network.
- Sign up to the DTA values and code of practice
- Use the DTA Wales logo on your website and other PR material, where appropriate
- Welcome enquiries and study visits from emerging development trusts and others by arrangement
- Attend the Wales and UK Members' conferences and events, whenever possible
- Support your local and UK network
- Provide information to DTA Wales about your organisation and your work
- Promote the development trust movement and values
- Take part in our Member's Survey

As a Full or Associate Member you can expect a range of benefits:-

Advice, Support, Representation, Promotion, Resources and Tools, Consultancy Opportunities and Services, Discounts and Money Saving offers.

- Membership of one of the most influential UK practitioner networks, in the field of community enterprise and regeneration.
- Promotion of Development Trusts, at a national, strategic policy level in Wales and UK.
- Make your voice heard and input to DTA Wales and (UK) policy and responses, to government consultations.
- Access to the Wales and UK wide network of development trust practitioners.
- Discounts on Publications and receive regular newsletters, briefings and funding updates, from DTA and our Programmes.
- Wales and UK conferences (Full Member only), seminars, briefing and training events, at discounted rates.
- Free Members profile page, on our DTA Wales Members' database on our new website, to promote your organisation and market your events and services and via our social media platforms.

- Voting rights in DTA Wales
- Use of the DTA Logo and Certificate of Membership (Full Members)
- Opportunities to join the DTA Wales Pool of Peer Mentors and Consultants
- Help deliver our Wales wide Programmes of support, for community enterprises and assets, and share your knowledge and experience with other practitioners, as a local Coordinator or Mentor (for Renew Wales, Enterprising Solutions or CAT support).
- Reduce your Energy Bills Costs and get advice on energy efficiency, with a no obligation, free quotation from the DTA Wales Energy Action Group.
- Attend DTA Best Practice Learning and Knowledge and Skills Exchange Visits, to other Trusts and community enterprises.
- Full Members benefit from some free support services and mentoring ,through our Renew Wales, Enterprising Solutions and CAT Programmes
- Make use of the DTA Full Members 'Fit for Purpose' Organisational Healthcheck Tool and advice on taking actions forward
- Free informal and confidential telephone or e mail advice, from DTA Wales Staff
- Earn income by hosting best practice study visits, events, seminars and workshops, in your community assets and facilities.
- Use our new Cardiff Bay Offices, for free small informal business meetings, when you are in Cardiff, or hire DTA Member, Promo Cymru's larger workshop, seminar or Board rooms, adjacent to our offices.
- Access funding advice and special rates and discounts, from Charity Bank and other organisations

Values and Principles

The Development Trusts Association Wales and Development Trusts subscribe to key values and principles as part of the Development Trust Manifesto, which include:

- **Empowerment** – communities can own and control their own future, through community leadership, and self-reliant organisations, with their own assets and enterprises.
- **Mutuality** – only by working together sharing skills and experiences, risks and resources can disadvantaged communities succeed
- **Diversity** – promoting diversity and equality within our organisations and local communities.
- **Independence** – communities, organisations and activities must be independent of the state and private sector
- **Partnership** – communities can grow through the strengths of their partnerships and alliances
- **Sustainability** – development trusts want to help create viable and sustainable communities through well managed economic, social environmental and cultural regeneration. In doing so, they want to minimise or reduce their impact on the earth's resources.