

# Proposal: Establishment of Lochside Community Collective

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*(Working name – subject to confirmation by the group)*

## 1. Introduction

This proposal sets out a plan to establish a new, community-led group in Lochside – the Lochside Community Collective – to support the regeneration, amplify local voices, and coordinate with key partners such as Dumfries and Galloway Council and Wheatley Homes South.

The collective will replace the existing Lochside Local Delivery Group, providing a refreshed, more inclusive and flexible structure that better reflects the current needs and aspirations of the community. It will begin as an unincorporated community group, operating under Terms of Reference, with no legal status, constitution or bank account.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Lochside Community Collective is to:

- Identify and support the development of community-led projects that benefit local residents;
- Partner with Dumfries and Galloway Council, Wheatley Homes South and others to help shape and deliver the Lochside Masterplan;
- Act as a trusted forum for community engagement, helping to ensure regeneration efforts are inclusive and locally informed; and
- Promote co-design by working alongside local residents, organisations and partners to ensure projects and services are shaped collaboratively from the ground up.

## 3. Structure and Governance

- The group will be unincorporated – it will have no legal status, no constitution, no bank account and will not manage fund;
- It will operate using a clearly defined Terms of Reference, agreed upon by members; and
- The group will focus on partnership working, advocacy, community coordination, and advisory support.

## 4. Membership

Membership will include:

- Up to 10 Lochside residents.

One representative from each of the following local organisations:

- Lochside and Woodlands Community Council;
- Lochside Community Association;

- LIFT Dumfries and Galloway;
- YMCA Dumfries;
- Langlands School Parent Council;
- North West Community Campus Primary School Parent Council;
- North West Community Campus Secondary School Parent Council; and
- St Teresa's RC Primary School Parent Council.

And:

- Two senior pupils from North West Community Campus Secondary School
- North West Dumfries youth councillors; and
- North west Dumfries councillors.

The group may invite additional individuals or organisations to attend meetings or contribute to specific projects as appropriate.

## **5. Roles and Meetings**

- A Chair and Secretary may be appointed informally to support coordination and communication;
- Meetings will be held monthly, or as agreed, by the group; and
- Agendas will be circulated in advance, and meeting notes will be recorded and shared.

## **6. Key Activities**

The group will:

- Gather and share local priorities and concerns;
- Promote collaboration between residents, community groups and public bodies;
- Advise on and support the implementation of the Lochside Masterplan; and
- Help identify opportunities for project funding, with applications to be made by constituted partner organisations.

## **7. Naming and Future Development**

The group will operate under the working name 'Lochside Community Collective' unless or until members agree on a permanent name.

In future, members may explore transitioning to a more formal structure such a:

- A constituted community group;
- A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO);
- Another legal form as appropriate; and
- Any such decision will be made democratically by the group.

## **8. Additional Consideration: Potential Role in Managing Community Benefit Funds**

In the absence of an active or established Community Council in Lochside, it may be possible for a constituted version of the Lochside Community Collective to act as the

recipient of wind farm community benefit monies — which are normally allocated to community councils – for the purpose of administering a local small grants scheme.

To take on this role, the group would need to become a constituted organisation (e.g. a SCIO or similar), with appropriate governance, transparency and local accountability.

This arrangement would typically be reviewed annually, and if a community council becomes active in future, the allocation of community benefit funds may revert to the community council, in line with the wind farm company policy and any relevant local agreements.

## **9. Accountability**

- The group will act transparently and with integrity in all its activities;
- It will not enter into contracts or manage funding unless formally constituted to do so; and
- Updates and information will be shared openly with the wider Lochside community and stakeholders.

## **10. Next Steps**

1. Confirm agreement on the Terms of Reference;
2. Appoint interim roles (Chair, Secretary) if required;
3. Hold a first full meeting of the group;
4. Begin identifying priority areas and linking with existing plans;
5. Establish ongoing meeting schedule and community communication plan.

## **11. Conclusion**

The Lochside Community Collective is proposed as a replacement for the current Lochside Local Delivery Group. This shift provides an opportunity to renew focus, increase community involvement, and create a structure that is open, responsive, and adaptable to future needs.

Starting as an unincorporated group allows for immediate collaborative work while leaving the door open for the Collective to evolve into a more formal entity – such as a SCIO – if required. The Collective will also be positioned, if constituted, to take on responsibilities such as managing small grant schemes through wind farm community benefit funds, subject to funder and policy conditions.

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