



**Strathnairn
Development
Company**

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Registered SCIO
SC049596

**STRATHNAIRN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

STRATHNAIRN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (A SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

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The Trustees present their annual report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the period ended 30 September 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity Name	Strathnairn Development Company
Charity Registration Number	SC049596
Principal Office Address	Farr Community Hall Inverarnie Park Farr Inverness IV2 6AX

The Trustees under charity law who served the charity during the period were

Megan Bee	
Prof. Michael Danson	Chair
Dr. Neil Dawson	Vice Chair
Guy Harris	
Elna Harvey	
Dr. Hal Robinson	Resigned September 2024
Paul Robinson	Treasurer
Raghnaid Sandilands	Secretary
Dr Justyna Szczachor	Resigned September 2024
Aileen Taylor	

Bankers Triodos Bank, Deanery Rd, Bristol, BS1 5AS

Independent Examiner Donald MacKenzie
Drive Business Services Ltd
52 Crown Drive
Inverness
IV2 3QG

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Mission statement

The Strathnairn Development Company (SDC) is an independent, charitable, community owned development trust working towards building a strong, resilient community in Strathnairn. Our aim is to help make our community a great place for people of all abilities to live, work and thrive.

Charitable purposes

SDC's primary charitable purpose is the advancement of community development, including assessing the need for, advocating for, providing advice for, and the execution of plans for community development.

Structure

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is organised into a two-tier structure; a body of Members, and Board of Trustees.

Membership is open to all residents over the age of 16 years living within the boundary of the Strathnairn Community Council area, as defined in September 2018. At the close of the financial year, SDC had 70 members.

Trustees are elected to the Board by the Members. Trustees may appoint other Members to fill vacancies as Appointed Trustees or non-members as Co-opted Trustees. Following revisions to the Constitution approved by members in November 2023, after serving for 3 years Elected and Appointed Trustees must step down, though can stand again for another term of 3 years. However, after a second term they must leave the Board for at least one year before being able to rejoin as Elected or Appointed Trustee. Co-opted Trustees serve until the subsequent AGM when they must step down, but may be co-opted by the incoming Board.

Governance

The Trustees control and are responsible for all aspects of SDC's operations. Trustees hold regular monthly meetings. Continuing the practice during the COVID-19 pandemic, most meetings have been held via Zoom conferencing. Trustees have provided information on their operations to the Members where possible.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

A Trustee role profile has been prepared and implemented, with a skills audit identifying where training and recruitment would be required. After elections in January 2024, the Board had 10 Elected trustees with a range of complementary skills and experiences.

SDC has no specific policies in place for the recruitment of young people between the ages of 16 - 18.

New Trustees are provided with access to SDC's constitution, and other information about the aims and objectives of the charity, sufficient to make sure they can become familiar with all aspects of SDC.

Employees

After advertising for a community development officer (CDO), a number of excellent candidates were interviewed and Jessica Boughey was appointed on November 1st, 2023. She remained in employment and made great progress in delivering the community's aspirations identified in the Community Action Plan before moving to another position in May 2024. Our heartfelt thanks to Jessica Boughey for her excellent work and commitment during her time with us.

Related parties

SDC is a member of the following organisations: Development Trust Association of Scotland (DTAS); Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI); Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN); and Social Enterprise Scotland (SES). Annual membership of all these organisations is free (at SDC's current turnover), with the exception of DTAS, where costs are £900 per annum. Further, the CDO and trustees are members of various other bodies fulfilling the needs for networking, knowledge and ongoing

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development of

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them as individuals and for the good governance of the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

Summary of main activities in relation to the charitable purpose

With a coherent and committed Board, there has been a continuation and consolidation of the SDC and activities. During the year, SDC focused on implementing the Community Action Plan (CAP) including raising the funding to employ a CDO. After positive conversations with the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund (SCBF), SDC was granted funding to further the purposes of the SCIO: in particular, initial funds were secured to recruit and employ a CDO, support running costs of SDC and to organise a series of events for the community. The CAP had identified the need for a CDO to help advance projects in the Strathnairn community, better support other community groups, and to organise events for the whole community. These continued to be delivered during the CDO's term.

Events and public meetings were facilitated by SDC trustees and CDO over the year, with a large increase in activities and consultations over the first half of the financial year in particular. As with most of SDC's activities, the trustees and CDO worked with other community organisations and partners to run the Farr Gala, and to support Strathnairn Connections with hot desking and a weekly community café in Farr Hall. These activities were handed over to the Farr Committee Hall and those involved in organising these activities once it was clear they had established a team. All these were successful in addressing all of the Quickwin priorities identified in the CAP and engaged directly with over half of the population of Strathnairn in one or more activities.

Similarly to the establishment of Strathnairn Connections, SDC discussions with the Hall Committee and across the community has led to the monthly Lunch Club being re-established for older residents. These organic and modest initiatives have gradually been growing over the years and become accepted into individuals' and organisations' calendars, progressively attracting growing numbers. Again, we were comfortable in handing over our own roles to the individuals and groups who had taken on the Seniors' Lunch Club. This is consistent with our approach of being facilitators of sustainable development in Strathnairn rather than being the body delivering activities and facilities beyond the start-up stage. Consultations with younger members of the community were organised through dedicated sessions which supplemented other feedback opportunities at events and online, and discussions were opened with relevant local bodies on how these could be facilitated and implemented. In addition, work continued to implement the short term priorities identified by the community in the CAP.

The wider community was informed of these initiatives and developments through a range of media including the Strathnairn Newsletter, the SDC website and direct emailings to members, through the SDC and Strathnairn community Facebook pages as well as by posters and word of mouth. These communications were promoted in particular by the professionally and attractively produced monthly reports from the CDO. Other forms of receiving feedback meant the elements of the CAP scheduled for early implementation were delivered as planned, and others designed and developed as proposed. All reports were posted on the usual channels.

A Hub Steering Group was established with representatives from SDC, SNCC, the Farr Hall Committee and SCBF coordinated by the CDO. This made significant progress under Jessica's oversight with consensus leading to scoping out of architects for possible developments. Against the proposals of SDC and the significant investments of time and effort by the SDC representatives, the Steering Group was abruptly disbanded in late Spring 2024. This occurred before the Community Hub proposed in the CAP could be fully explored with the wider Strathnairn community.

Summary of other activities

SDC continued to work with other community groups to fulfil the priorities of the community revealed in community surveys and meetings. In particular, with the taking into community ownership the historical Dunlichity church by Strathnairn Heritage Association there has been mutual support and advice over the next stages of kitting out the premises as a heritage centre, organising joint public talks, etc. Lessons and learning on community asset transfer from this are being shared across the community and this collaboration has been recognised by a number of public and third/social sector agencies in seeking advice from SDC.

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To enhance communication channels to members of SDC and the community, regular contributions were made to the dedicated Facebook pages along with email bulletins to members, and an Instagram account.

Achievements and performance

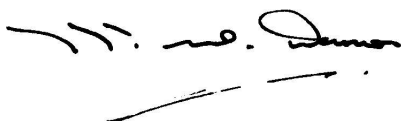
Through the CDO and the Board, significant funding for community activities was brought into Strathnairn: from Seachdain na Gàidhlig 'Small Grants Fund' for Gaelic Week and Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd community grant, about £4.5k was secured to deliver concerts, classes, Book Bug and other activities over the year on "Gaelic in Strathnairn / Gàidhlig ann an Srath Naruinn". External funds were forthcoming to run popular cinema days for young people and adults with support via Film Hub Scotland, praise following from BFI and others for our events. The Farr Gala was run again under the lead of SDC with about one-third of Strathnairners attending. Preliminary work on a Local Place Plan, affordable housing, community ownership of assets, and other projects identified in the CAP and associated meetings progressed. In its 5th year, SDC therefore believed it had gained the confidence of its partner organisations in its capacity to deliver and communicate more effectively with the community, and feedback from national bodies furth of Strathnairn definitely confirmed such progress. For example, recognition was forthcoming from regional and national organisations in the form of approval of full membership of DTAS, invitations to join panels and to deliver keynote addresses at national conferences, and similar acknowledgements. As detailed in the Monthly CDO reports major progress was made in delivering and preparing action and work plans across the priorities of the community as laid out in the CAP. These were welcomed by the community in feedback to SDC and to the CDO.

After the CDO left for a new position and adverts were prepared for a replacement, applications were made to SCBF for renewed funding for the CDO and SDC running costs as we had been encouraged to. However, no funding was forthcoming and no official explanation offered. As this led to an impasse and a slowdown in our work, advice and guidance were sought from the eight officially recognised regional and national organisations in social and community development, all advised seeking mediation between SCBF and SDC. This was arranged but only SDC were willing to engage. SDC Members were appraised of these developments with direct emails and the wider community of Strathnairn through social media, although our requests for these messages to be disseminated through the Strathnairn Newsletter were refused. We were given encouragement by these external bodies to seek funding for Strathnairn for the benefit of the community, and steps to ensure that will be a priority for the new year.

Our extensive engagement with other community groups and with respected national bodies, participation in a range of fora and policy and practice organisations across Scotland and beyond give us optimism for 2025 that we can meet the aspirations of the community.

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

Continuing to deliver and update the CAP should enable SDC to develop and implement projects, facilities and activities and to secure investment finance, including by approaching large external funders. Until such initiatives are designed and realised, SDC will continue to have limited funding available to the point that there is no need for a reserves policy.



Prof Mike Danson (Chair)

Date: 6th March 2025

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Strathnairn Development Company

**Independent Examiner's report to the members
on the unaudited financial statements of
Strathnairn Development Company**

I report on the accounts of Strathnairn Development Company for the year ended 30th September 2024, which are set out on pages 4 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Donald MacKenzie, Independent Examiner

Date: 20th March 2025

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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
Receipts					
Voluntary Income	5	586	4,067	4,653	59,822
Investment Income		135	0	135	143
Total Receipts		721	4,067	4,788	59,965
Payments					
Cost of Charitable Activities	6	(42)	(27,033)	(27,075)	(23,314)
Governance Costs		(11)	0	(11)	(5)
Total Payments		(53)	(27,033)	(27,086)	(23,319)
Surplus / (Deficit) for the period		668	(22,966)	(22,298)	36,639
Transfer between funds		(279)	279	0	0
Final Surplus / (Deficit) for the period	8	389	(22,687)	(22,298)	36,639

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STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

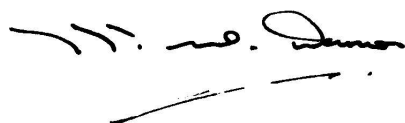
	Note	2024 Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
Opening Cash at bank and in hand	7,8	183	36,504	36,687	40
Surplus / (Deficit) for the period		389	(22,718)	(22,330)	36,639
Closing Cash at bank and in hand		572	13,786	14,357	36,679

	Note	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
Other Assets (at financial year start)		1775	0
Rise / (Fall) for the period		0	1908
Other Assets (at financial year end)		1775	1908
Depreciation/Writing off of other Assets (at financial year end)	9	1121	133
Final Value of Other Assets (at financial year end)		654	1775
Liabilities (All Funds)		261	285
Contingent Liabilities (All Funds)		0	0

The charity Trustees have considered that the audit requirement under Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Charities (Scotland) Accounts Regulations does not apply.

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and were signed on their behalf by:



PROFESSOR MIKE DANSON (Chair)

Date: 20th March 2025

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

1. **Status of the charity**

Strathnairn Development Company was approved as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on 11th September 2019.

2. **Accounting Policies**

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Donations and donated services and facilities

All donations received are credited to the Statement of Receipts and Payments in the year to which they relate. Donations received or earmarked for specific purposes are accounted for as restricted funds.

Grants receivable

Grants receivable are credited to the Statement of Receipts and Payments in the year to which they relate. Grants receivable or earmarked for specific purposes are accounted for as restricted funds.

Income

Income has been classified under the following headings:

Voluntary income – This comprises resources generated from voluntary sources including, for example donations and grants where the donor does not receive any direct return as a result of the donation.

Activities for generating funds – This comprises fund-raising activities carried out by the charity to generate incoming resources which will be used to undertake its charitable activities.

Investment income – This comprises incoming resources from investment assets, for example bank interest received.

Charitable activities – This comprises all incoming resources received, which are a payment for goods and services provided for the benefit of the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure

Expenditure has been classified into the following headings:

Charitable Activities – This comprises all resources expended by the charity in undertaking its work to meet its charitable objectives. Such costs include the direct costs of the charitable activities together with those support costs incurred that enable these activities to be undertaken.

Governance costs – This comprises the cost of governance arrangements, which relate to the general running of the charity.

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Nature and Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3. Trustees and Related Party Transactions

No remuneration was paid to any trustee. There were no related party transactions during the year.

4. Taxation

The charitable organisation is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and resources expended therefore include irrecoverable input VAT.

5. Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
Grants	0	3,530	3,530	59,415
Donations and Gifts	0	537	537	407
Receipts from fund raising	721	0	721	0
Total Voluntary Income	721	4,067	4,788	59,822

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6. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
CDO Equipment	0	282	282	1,243
CDO Salary (including payroll)	17	18709	18,726	8,191
CDO Ancillary Costs (mileage, phone, expenses card)	0	635	635	
Subscriptions	0	90	90	
Community Consultations	0	500	500	300
Indemnity/Employment Insurance	0	500	500	626
Online services	0	99	99	0
Professional Services	0	360	360	0
Printing & publication costs	0	58	58	232
Strathnairn Events Programme	0	5,322	5,322	11,488
Gaelic Activities	0	361	361	0
Supplies	0	84	84	
Misc.	25	33	58	1,234
Total Cost of Charitable Activities	42	27,033	27,075	23,314

7. Opening and closing amounts on Statement of Balances. £8 discrepancy between opening value for 2024 and closing value for 2023 is due to an error in not including the £8 held as petty cash at the end of the 2022/2023 financial year.

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8. There is a £32 discrepancy between expenditure in 2023/2024 and the statement of balances 2023/2024. Following table explains this. Also see note 9.

	2023/2024
Expenditure for 2023/2024	(22298)
Statement of balances for 2023/2024	(22330)
Discrepancy	<u>32</u>
Liabilities 2022/2023 (paid in 2023/2024) (inc in 2022/2023 expenditure)	285
CDO Salary overpay (2022-2023) written off (negative liability)	<u>8</u>
Actual value of Liabilities (paid in 2023/2024)	293
Liabilities 2023/2024 (to be paid 2024/2025)(inc in 2023/2024 expenditure)	<u>261</u>
Surplus/Deficit	<u>32</u>

9. Depreciation/Writing off of other Assets (at financial year end)

	2024	2023
<u>Depreciation</u>		
Depreciation for CDO Computer (@25% per annum)	265	133
Written off assets		
Coffee machine (to Farr Hall)	848	0
CDO expenses (from 2022/2023)	<u>8</u>	
Total Cost	<u>1121</u>	<u>133</u>