

## Enhanced Support for Community Groups Developing Proposals to Own Land or Buildings in the Clyde Valley

### Putting Expertise in the Hands of Communities

The Community Ownership Hub: Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Community Land Scotland are asking for expressions of interest from community groups who would like community engagement support as they develop proposals to own land or buildings. Details on this are below, and interested groups should complete the attached expression of interest.

Community ownership organisations rely on volunteer support to develop their projects on tight budgets, and having good technical advice is key for development and regeneration. We are putting additional expert support into the hands of community groups, helping to develop their projects with the best resources.

### What is the Community Ownership Hub?

The [Community Ownership Hub: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley](#) aims to accelerate [community ownership](#) of land and buildings in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.

We think community ownership should be a normal option for communities throughout Scotland, as it is in places like the Galson Estate on the Isle of Lewis, where the community has owned the land since 2007. Amazing things are happening for urban community owners, like Linwood in Renfrewshire, Spire View Community Hub in Roystonhill, and the Pyramid in Anderston. Community ownership can be transformative, but there are many challenges, particularly in urban areas.

Ownership should be done on communities' terms, giving them control and allowing them to build the futures they want. As volunteer organisations, community groups often need help with resources to allow them to develop property into true assets-- we are helping to address this challenge through this enhanced support programme.

The Community Ownership Hub: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley is a project of [Community Land Scotland](#). Community Land Scotland is the voice of Scotland's community landowners. We provide a range of information, training, knowledge exchange and support for pre and post-acquisition geographic communities. We specialise in negotiated private purchases but can also refer to other organisations and provide tips and information on other routes to ownership. We work across rural and urban Scotland.

## Community Engagement Support

Those involved in community ownership at the earliest stages are often passionate individuals with a dream of working towards community ownership. Maybe they want to protect and improve nearby open space, or are fed up with a vacant site nearby and want to build housing, or want to save the last pub in their neighbourhood. In our experience the vision and aspiration of community landowners have no bounds.

There are many challenges in converting this ambition into the practicalities of the community ownership process. An area of work that has been identified on numerous occasions by communities, and underlined by feedback from funders, is lack of experience and capacity to undertake the necessary community engagement with local people. Good engagement at the outset leads to stronger projects. If these projects are to have transformational effects, then both the vision and the land or building need to be truly community owned.

Our community engagement support can help community groups with:

- *Creative Engagement Campaigns*  
Creative engagement can capture people's imagination about community ownership, sparking interest, raising the profile of projects, and communicating the sometimes-abstract benefits of community ownership. This could be an art project in public spaces, a digital project, or anything our creative teams can dream up.
- *Defining Geographic Communities*  
The Community Right to Buy process and Scottish Land Fund applications require local support for community ownership, which in some cases is required to be demonstrated through a ballot of a geographically-defined local community. We can help define a geographic community, which can be challenging in populated urban areas.
- *Baseline Understanding of Amenities and Services*  
Compiling a baseline of existing local services and amenities can be needed to help community groups consider unmet needs and develop complementary services.
- *Inclusive Engagement*  
We need to reach all types of community members to be inclusive.
- *Communicating outcomes and next steps*  
Concrete details on next steps, linking into group's plans and funder's requirements.
- *Event support*  
Where a community meeting is required (online or in person), we can support community groups in arranging and conducting this event.
- *Other engagement support as needed*  
We want to support groups with their needs—if you think you need another type of community engagement support to further your ownership ambitions, let us know.

## Expressions of Interest

Interested groups should complete the expression of interest, attached separately. Please return this form before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021; we will issue the first round of awards in June.

An individual support package for each community group will be developed in conjunction with a community engagement team, with oversight from Community Land Scotland. We have appointed a highly skilled engagement team which we will match up with community groups.

Each support package aims to be the right combination of support for the community group. Groups will have no obligation to proceed with the support if they find it isn't what they expected-- but we hope we can find a way to help groups in the way they want.

We welcome questions; please send these to [carey.doyle@communitylandscotland.org.uk](mailto:carey.doyle@communitylandscotland.org.uk)

## How We Will Allocate Support

The support framework is open to community groups who want to own land within the Glasgow City Region of the Clyde Valley. This is the local authority areas of Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire.

You do not need to be a member of Community Land Scotland to get support from us.

Numbers of groups supported will depend on the level of interest and type of support requested.

Decisions on which groups to support will be made by Community Land Scotland. For transparency, key considerations in allocating support will be:

- Supporting groups where no other support exists.
- Geographic spread of groups.
- Cost of support, in order to maximise benefits across of communities.
- Ability to address inequalities and deliver inclusive development.

Community Land Scotland supports communities of geography, and will prioritise engagement support for community ownership groups who are, or are exploring becoming, an organisation for communities of geography.

*Clarification added 5/5/21: Financial support will be given to groups to pay for community engagement support, based on the agreed scope of works between the community group and the engagement team which Community Land Scotland has appointed.*

*Exact amounts of support for groups will depend on the scope of works requested, and the range of groups to be supported according to the criteria above.*

*We expect to spend approximately £30,000 on engagement support for 2021 and 2022, in total. We are currently seeking additional funding. Our total budget for this support framework is £100,000 for 2021 and 2022.*