



A VISION FOR FINDERNE

Our Strategic Plan sets out a vision for the sustainable rural regeneration of FINDERNE and its communities and how the FINDERNE Development Trust (FDT) plans to achieve it.

The developers of Logie Wind Farm - Hill of Glaschyle Renewables LLP - supported the initial vision and rationale for establishing the FDT and are providing community benefit funding to facilitate the operation of the Trust over the next 25 years.

FDT's vision is encapsulated as:

"FINDERNE is home to a welcoming community where people of all ages want to live, work and visit because of its outstanding environment and the quality of life it offers."

KEY STRATEGIC THEMES

To achieve this vision, efforts will be concentrated on delivering against three strategic themes that emerged as a result of a six-month long community consultation process:

- **SOCIAL** - developing a stronger identity for FINDERNE, a more balanced demographic, enhanced well-being and combatting social isolation.
- **ECONOMIC** - facilitating availability of infrastructure to support local businesses and encouraging more people to establish livelihoods in FINDERNE's rural industries.
- **ENVIRONMENT, ART & CULTURE** - creating opportunities to access, enjoy and participate in environmental stewardship and enhancing the cultural life of FINDERNE.

VALUES

The work FDT undertakes in pursuit of this vision will be underpinned by the following values and principles:

- Staying community focused
- An emphasis on long-term investment and legacy benefits
- Sustainability
- Supporting other groups and partners in achieving their goals through collaboration and empowerment

PRIORITY PROJECTS

The Strategic Plan outlines the current status of the area and the issues, challenges and opportunities identified by the community through the community engagement process. The community enjoy living in the area and agree that it is an attractive and safe place to be, but would like to see some improvements. The three top choices for improvement were identified as better public or community transport, support for vulnerable people and more activities for younger people to enjoy.

From the results of the consultation, projects set out under the three strategic themes have been identified as being the highest priority over the next 5 years, each of which help to meet FDT's charitable purposes:

SOCIAL

- **Community communications strategy**
- **Development of a multi-functional community hub**
- **Scheme to help address fuel poverty**
- **Community transport scheme**
- **Community well-being / home care programme**

ECONOMIC

- **Fast broadband provision across FINDERNE**
- **Community energy scheme**
- **Facilitation of land-based apprenticeships**
- **Provision of co-working / shared / incubation workspace**

ENVIRONMENT, ART AND CULTURE

- **New recreational routes / enhanced connectivity and infrastructure**
- **New opportunities for eco-tourism & environmental education**
- **Arts and heritage promotion**
- **Projects that showcase enhancement / sustainability of FINDERNE's environment**

FDT seeks to recruit staff to take forward these projects as well as working collaboratively with a range of partners.



TARGETS FOR DELIVERY

By 2023, FDT hopes to have made tangible progress towards achieving its vision through delivery of the priority projects, and having brought the following benefits to Finderne under its strategic themes:

- **SOCIAL** - Finderne has been strengthened as a flourishing, caring and cohesive community with a strong local identity, a diverse and balanced demographic, excellent infrastructure and with an envied reputation for grasping opportunities to promote and enhance wellbeing and healthy rural living.
- **ECONOMIC** - enhanced value for the community has been created through start-up investment, business incubation, mentoring, networking and support to attract significant investment into Finderne. Broadband and communications infrastructure have been made available to help make Finderne a preferred choice for those looking to start up businesses and to live and stay in the area.
- **ENVIRONMENT, ART & CULTURE** - growing demand for outdoor recreation, eco-tourism, hospitality and environmental education and management has been capitalised on, establishing Finderne as an innovative leader in ecological and environmental practice.

MONITORING AND ENGAGEMENT

To support the delivery of the Strategic Plan, FDT will monitor its progress, ensuring that its priorities remain valid and relevant.

Regular progress reporting will be provided through the FDT's Annual General Meetings, publishing of Annual Reports and on-going communications with its members, stakeholders and partners.



Realising the vision will mean “unlocking the future” for Finderne and creating a sustainable legacy for its communities and the generations to come.

This Strategic Plan has been prepared with assistance from our community engagement consultant team of Athena Solutions and StrategyStory, and with financial support from Local Energy Scotland.

