



**SURF**  
Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network

SURF – sharing experience : shaping practice



# The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2015 Information paper

Organised by SURF in partnership with the  
Scottish Government

With additional support from Architecture + Design Scotland,  
Creative Scotland, Highland and Islands Enterprise, PAS, RTPI Scotland,  
Scotland's Towns Partnership, and Skills Development Scotland

2015 SURF Awards Media Partner



[www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards)





## About the SURF Awards

The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration are organised and delivered by SURF in partnership with the Scottish Government.

The purpose of the SURF Awards process is:

- To recognise and reward best practice in community regeneration;
- To promote and disseminate best practice across Scotland as means of sharing knowledge and experience, and thereby enhancing future policy and practice;
- To highlight the role that regeneration projects have in improving the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

The SURF Awards are open to any project or initiative, taking place in Scotland, which is currently in place or which has been completed within two years of the closing date.

## Why You Should Enter

### *Demonstrating Value*

The SURF Awards are widely recognised as the most prestigious in the field of Scottish community regeneration. Past winning and shortlisted projects report that recognition in the SURF Awards process has been beneficial in demonstrating their success and value to partner bodies and funding agencies.

### *Recognition and Team Building*

The SURF Awards process is helpful in increasing wider awareness of the often underappreciated hard work that goes into regeneration projects large and small. It also supports team-building through the recognition of the contribution of partners, management, staff and volunteers.

### *Showcasing Success*

Winning projects in each of five award categories will be presented with a certificate from a leading Scottish Government Minister at a high-profile celebratory dinner event on Thursday 10 December in Glasgow. Winning projects will also be showcased in a variety of SURF and Scottish Government events, publications and online channels in 2016.

### *National Profile*

A special SURF Awards publication will highlight all shortlisted entries. It will be widely distributed to over 3000 regeneration stakeholders and key policy-makers across Scotland.

## About SURF

As Scotland's independent regeneration network, SURF uses its extensive cross-sector membership of over 280 organisations to explore current practice, experience and knowledge in community regeneration. SURF provides many opportunities for the sharing of information and ideas through its annual programme of events, research, publications and informal networking.

The outcomes of this interactive process are used to constructively inform and influence the development of more successful regeneration policy and practice. SURF does this through its links with relevant networks and policy-makers in national and local government and other regeneration related agencies.

Further information is available on our website:

[www.scotregen.co.uk](http://www.scotregen.co.uk)

## About the Judging Panel

Applications to the 2015 SURF Awards will be assessed by an experienced and independent panel of 22 judges, four per category (six for 'Scotland's Most Improved Town'). They are selected from national bodies and community groups that are concerned with community regeneration in Scotland. All judges give their time and expertise to the SURF Awards process generously and without remuneration.

## What is Community Regeneration?

SURF takes a wide view of regeneration as encompassing social, physical, economic, ecological and cultural activities across all geographies and sectors. While each aspect can be an important part of the process, SURF believes that successful and sustainable strategies to regenerate struggling communities will be holistic and community focused. Lastly, SURF recognises the enhancement of individual and community wellbeing as the ultimate goal of any authentic regeneration process.





## About the Application Process

We know that those involved in regeneration at all levels are very busy, so the SURF Awards application form and process is designed to be as brief and clear as possible.

Projects can be nominated for a SURF Award by email, post or fax. Applications can either be self-nominated or by a third party.

Projects are only allowed to enter in one category in any given year.

The judges will wish to visit at least three short listed projects in each category before deciding upon an overall winner. The category winners will be announced at a celebratory awards dinner in Glasgow on the evening of Thursday 10 December 2015.

While we will welcome and acknowledge all applications, due to the number of entries we receive and the limited resources available, we regret that we are not able to provide feedback on projects that are not shortlisted.

## Award Entry Categories

There are five categories of entry in the 2015 SURF Awards:

**Scotland's Most Improved Town** (see page 4)

**Large Scale Infrastructure** (see page 5)

**Employability** (see page 6)

**Creative Regeneration** (see page 7)

**Community Led Regeneration** (see page 8)

In making your entry, you are asked to respond directly to the judging criteria for the category you wish to enter.

## How to Apply

SURF Award applications should consist only of a completed application form for the selected category.

The SURF Awards judging panel will consider how applicants respond to the five or six category criteria in making their assessment. Optionally, applicants may also include a link to a project website and/or a YouTube video of up to two minutes in length.

Please do not supply any other materials or information as this will not be made available to the judges for consideration.

Category application forms are available by visiting the 'SURF Awards' section of the SURF website:

[www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards/](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards/)

You can also request a hard copy by contacting the SURF staff team using the details below.

Completed application forms can be submitted by post, email or fax.

The closing date for applications to the 2015 SURF Awards is 5pm on **Monday 14 September 2015**.

For any queries about how to submit an application for the 2015 SURF Awards, please call the SURF office on 0141 440 0122 or send an email to SURF's Derek Rankine at [derek@scotregen.co.uk](mailto:derek@scotregen.co.uk)



*Axolotls are highly proficient at adapting to changing and challenging circumstances – just like many regeneration projects*

# Scotland's Most Improved Town

The 2015 SURF Award for Scotland's Most Improved Town (Small, Medium & Large)

**Context** – The Scottish Government's 2013 Town Centre Action Plan was developed as a "stimulus to encourage and support action across the wider public, private and community sectors" with a view to addressing issues faced by Scotland's towns. The Scottish Government, Scotland's Towns Partnership, RTPI Scotland, Architecture + Design Scotland, PAS, SURF and others are keen to support the ambitions of the Action Plan and the revitalisation of town centres as a focus for tackling wider physical, social and economic challenges in urban Scotland.



**Purpose** – The Scotland's Most Improved Town 2015 SURF Awards category will identify, celebrate and share the positive impacts of participative planning and regeneration processes in urban settlements of all sizes across Scotland.

**Scale** – There will be three winning projects in this category:

- Scotland's Most Improved Small Town (population size below 5000)
- Scotland's Most Improved Medium Town (population size between 5000-20,000)
- Scotland's Most Improved Large Town (population size exceeding 20,000)

**Criteria** – Entries will be expected to demonstrate, and will be judged on:

*ENGAGEMENT:*

- *Effective community engagement and participation;*

*ENHANCED ECONOMY:*

- *Improved economic opportunities and engagement with the private sector;*

*PRACTICAL ACHIEVEMENTS:*

- *Benefits for people living in the town and using the town centre;*

*PUTTING THE TOWN CENTRE FIRST:*

- *Use of proactive planning and the 'Town Centre First' principle, and improvement in access to public services and digital infrastructure;*

*PRIDE OF PLACE:*

- *Improvement in the town's image, identity and 'pride of place'.*

A 2015 SURF Awards application form for the Scotland's Most Improved Town category is available at the following link: [www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards)

The Scotland's Most Improved Town SURF Awards category is delivered in partnership with Scotland's Towns Partnership and RTPI Scotland, with additional support from Architecture + Design Scotland and PAS.



# Large Scale Infrastructure

The 2015 SURF Award for Best Practice in Delivering Social Benefits from Investments in Infrastructure

**Context** – In addition to their core physical and economic purposes, SURF is interested in the degree to which large scale infrastructure investments can deliver social benefits, such as increased employment, enhanced connectivity, access to services & recreational assets, and skills & training opportunities.



**Purpose** – This 2015 SURF Awards category will recognise the achievements of a successful large scale infrastructure project that also demonstrates substantial outcomes in the form of social benefits.

**Scale** – This category is intended for a large regeneration initiative with a total budget commitment (inclusive of all planning, capital, and staff costs over the project lifecycle) of at least £5 million.

**Criteria** – Entries will be expected to demonstrate, and will be judged on:

*NEED:*

- *The demand for the project and the appropriateness of the response;*

*COOPERATION:*

- *Effective partnership collaboration in producing a practical strategy;*

*ENGAGEMENT:*

- *Evidence of community engagement in the planning process;*

*OUTCOMES:*

- *Evidence of substantial social benefits for the area(s) and/or target community(ies);*

*SUSTAINABILITY:*

- *A realistic plan for sustaining the aims of the project and ensuring its legacy.*

A 2015 SURF Awards application form for the Large Scale Infrastructure category is available at the following link: [www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards)

# Employability

The 2015 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Delivering Employability Services to Young People

**Context** – Successfully supporting young people aged 16-24 years into the labour market by delivering services that provide relevant skills training programmes, qualifications, and improvements in life skills and confidence, is a major social and economic regeneration policy goal.



**Purpose** – The 2015 SURF Award for Employability will be presented to a project that demonstrates success in delivering positive outcomes for young people in the 16-24 age bracket.

**Criteria** – Entries will be expected to demonstrate, and will be judged on:

*COMMITMENT:*

- *Highly skilled, trained and committed project staff;*

*SERVICE QUALITY:*

- *High delivery standards, informed by direct engagement with service users aged 16-24;*

*EFFECTIVENESS:*

- *Successful transitions of service users aged 16-24 into employment, education or training;*

*COLLABORATION:*

- *Evidence of appropriate and useful engagement with local stakeholders and partner organisations;*

*TRANSFERABLE LESSONS:*

- *The potential to offer learning outcomes and models of good practice to share with other employability initiatives.*

A 2015 SURF Awards application form for the Employability category is available at the following link: [www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards)

The Effective Employability SURF Award category is supported by Skills Development Scotland.



# Creative Regeneration

The 2015 SURF Award for Best Practice in Creative Approaches to Community Regeneration

**Context** – There is an enhanced appreciation of the regeneration potential of creative arts processes in developing local culture, cohesion, capacity and assets via imaginative and participative processes.

**Purpose** – To reward best practice in embedding arts and creativity at the heart of community regeneration. This award will be presented to a project which has demonstrated creative ambition and strong partnership delivery between communities and artists (in any artform) to regenerate their area.



**Criteria** – Entries will be expected to demonstrate, and will be judged on:

**NEED:**

- *The demand for the project and how the local community will benefit in terms of creativity and wellbeing;*

**ENGAGEMENT:**

- *Substantial involvement from the community working with artists in the concept, design and delivery of a project which will benefit the participants and the wider community;*

**CREATIVITY:**

- *creative approaches designed to celebrate the cultural and artistic ambitions that are rooted in the local community;*

**COOPERATION:**

- *Evidence of appropriate and effective partnership engagement;*

**OUTCOMES:**

- *Practical benefits from the work of the project and indications of increased community cohesion and creative ambition within the community and/or targeted area;*

**SUSTAINABILITY:**

- *A realistic strategy to develop a legacy for the project in the longer term.*

A 2015 SURF Awards application form for the Creative Regeneration category is available at the following link: [www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards)

The Creative Regeneration SURF Award category is supported by  
Creative Scotland.



# Community Led Regeneration

## The 2015 SURF Award for Best Practice in Community Led Regeneration

**Context** – There is an enhanced appreciation of the value community groups can bring to wider regeneration strategies when they take a lead role in initiating and delivering a local activity. This shift is reflected in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill, recently passed by the Scottish Parliament, which legislates in favour of increased powers for community groups.



**Purpose** – This 2015 SURF Awards category will reward best practice in a regeneration project in Scotland that features representatives of a community of place or theme in a leading role.

**Criteria** – Entries will be expected to demonstrate:

*NEED:*

- *The demand for the project;*

*LOCAL LEADERSHIP:*

- *High level involvement of the local community in the conception, design and operation of the project;*

*ACTIVITY:*

- *Enhanced levels of participation and cohesion within the community concerned;*

*OUTCOMES:*

- *Benefits for the wider community, including positive impacts in preventing or offsetting deprivation or exclusion;*

*COOPERATION:*

- *Evidence of committed partnership activity;*

*SUSTAINABILITY:*

- *A practical vision for the viability of the project in the longer term.*

A 2015 SURF Awards application form for the Community Led Regeneration category is available at the following link: [www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards)

The Community Led Regeneration SURF Award category is supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.