



# SURF's Alliance for Action Programme

## A brief overview

Since 2013, SURF has been enhancing cross sector understanding and cooperation in **place-based regeneration** via its *Alliance for Action* initiative.

In a complementary set of five community focused collaborations, it provides **practical support on agreed priorities** and draws out **shared learning outcomes**, of interest to regeneration practitioners and policy-makers across Scotland.



SURF's experienced, connected and constructive role enables local community groups, public agencies and other stakeholders to work more effectively together in connecting **physical, social and economic regeneration challenges and assets**.

Direct engagement with varied contexts and partners enables SURF to gain and promote an **enhanced understanding** of how current policies and resources are interacting in real places; and how they might be improved for better, more sustainable outcomes.

The **overarching purpose** of SURF's *Alliance for Action* programme is:

- to strengthen community resilience and promote practical regeneration outcomes in a diverse set of case study communities;
- to enhance wider policy and resource considerations for supporting community regeneration in the continuing challenging context.

## Improving Outcomes

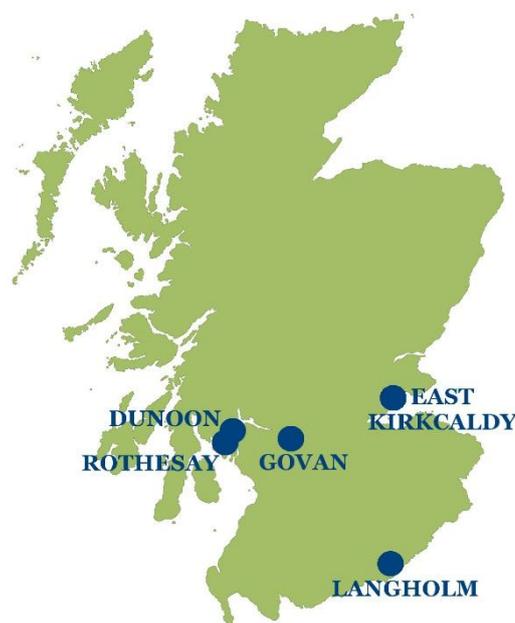
**Positive outcomes** for the different partners involved in SURF's *Alliance for Action* collaborations include the following:

- **Local residents** – improved quality of life and opportunities via better engagement with local services and assets.
- **Local authorities** – increased access to, and engagement with, community-based knowledge, assets and initiatives.
- **Local enterprises** – improved business and engagement opportunities in a clarified system of collaborative priorities.

- **Local community and voluntary organisations** – improved cooperation and enhanced mutually beneficial collaboration with the relevant local authority Community Planning processes and priorities.
- **Regeneration policy officers** – increased knowledge of the practical interaction of policy and resource impacts at the place level.
- **Cross-sector local stakeholders** – better shared understanding and active coordination of respective roles, capacities, priorities, skills and resources.
- **Regional and national regeneration agencies** – more effective and efficient targeting and coordination of policy and resources.
- **Academics** – more effective engagement of research and related resources with practice-based learning opportunities and productive initiatives.

## Programme Sites

SURF's programme currently operates in a set of **five Scottish communities**, all of which face **significant regeneration challenges**. They vary from post-industrial urban areas to coastal, rural and island towns (see map, right). This variety helps SURF to better understand how relevant policies and resources are operating in **different place contexts**.



## Cross Site Initiatives

SURF delivers a number of interactive initiatives based on the five *Alliance for Action* sites. These include; **Shared Learning Events**, which bring local stakeholders together to explore topics of mutual interest, such as heritage, participation and wellbeing; a **People and Sector Connector Service**, which provides a nationwide learning and networking programme for regeneration officers in local government; and **Thematic Agency Collaborations**, which links related sets of national agencies directly with each other, and with regeneration assets and aspirations in the local sites.

## Future Development Plans

Over the current 2018-21 period, SURF and its partners have agreed that the programme will operate with no fewer than five, and no more than six, participating places.

There are **no immediate plans** to add to or change the current sites of Dunoon, East Kirkcaldy, Govan, Langholm and Rothesay. A SURF Board *Alliance for Action* review session is scheduled for early 2020, which will consider **post-2021 development options** and potential exit strategies for selected sites.

Further information on SURF's *Alliance for Action* programme is available at:

[www.surf.scot/alliance-for-action/](http://www.surf.scot/alliance-for-action/)