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THIRD SECTOR  
Dumfries and Galloway

# ALTERNATIVE FINANCE

## Takeaway factsheet

### Event overview

The funding landscape has become increasingly challenging for our third sector organisations, prompting Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSDG) to organise a pilot event aimed at supporting social enterprises and community groups in exploring alternative finance options.

The idea for the event arose during a meeting of the Social Enterprise Dumfries and Galloway (SEDG) Network, and it was further developed with the assistance of our partners across Scotland.

The event featured support agencies specialising in alternative finance such as Social Investment Scotland, Democratic Finance Scotland, South of Scotland Enterprise, Social Enterprise Accountancy Scotland CIC, Just Enterprise, Firstport and Buy Social (Social Enterprise Scotland). These organisations came together to share their knowledge and experiences with our local organisations in Dumfries and Galloway.

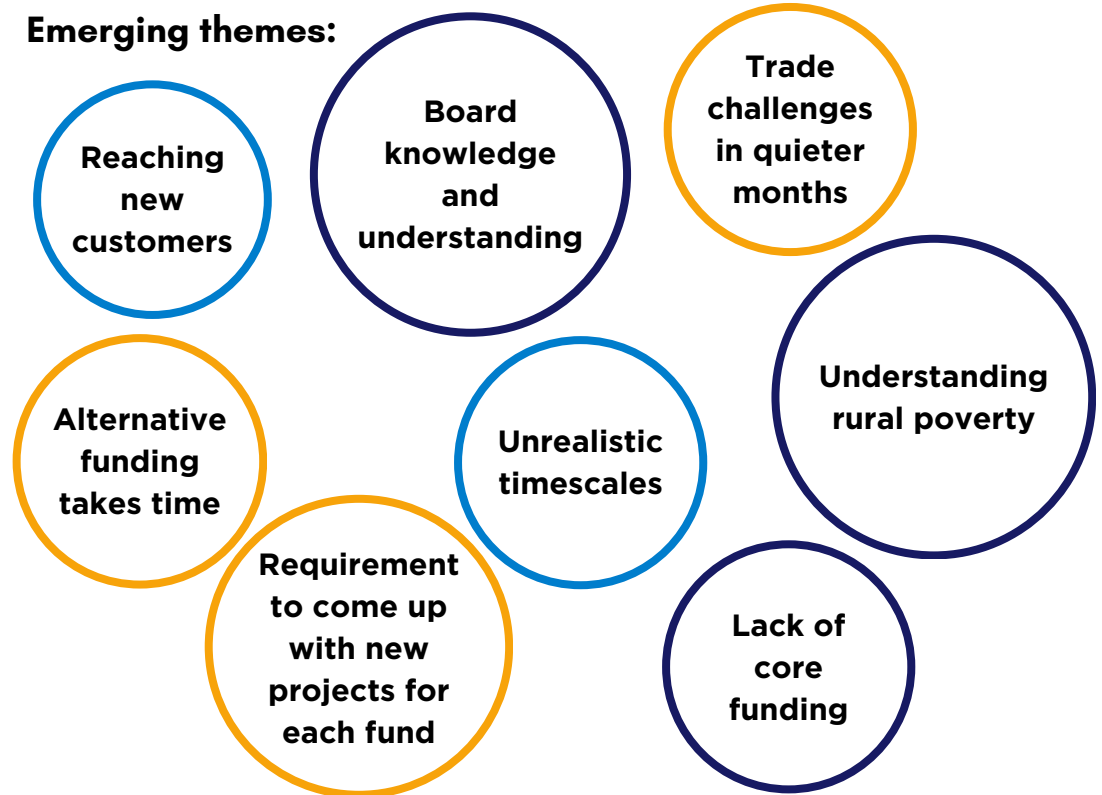
The Alternative Finance Event was the first of its kind organised by TSDG, with the aim of helping the sector explore new and innovative ways of financing their organisations as traditional funding sources become increasingly difficult to secure.

#### Next steps

It has been identified that on going support, training and events would be beneficial for keeping the conversation going around the subject of alternative finance.



#### Emerging themes:



#### Questions for investors

What reporting is required?

What projects are you likely to invest in?

Can investment cover core costs?

What happens if we miss payback dates?

Do community shares have to be repayable?



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### Are you ready for investment?

#### Things to consider:

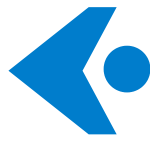
- Your governance should be robust and fit for purpose
  - You should have a clear financial plan.
  - You need the right people and skills in your organisation.
  - Research possible sources of finance that are appropriate.
- What is the difference you want to make?
  - What is your unique selling point?



FIRSTPORT



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DEMOCRATIC FINANCE  
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#### FURTHER SUPPORT



0300 303 8558  
9am - 5pm Monday-Friday



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