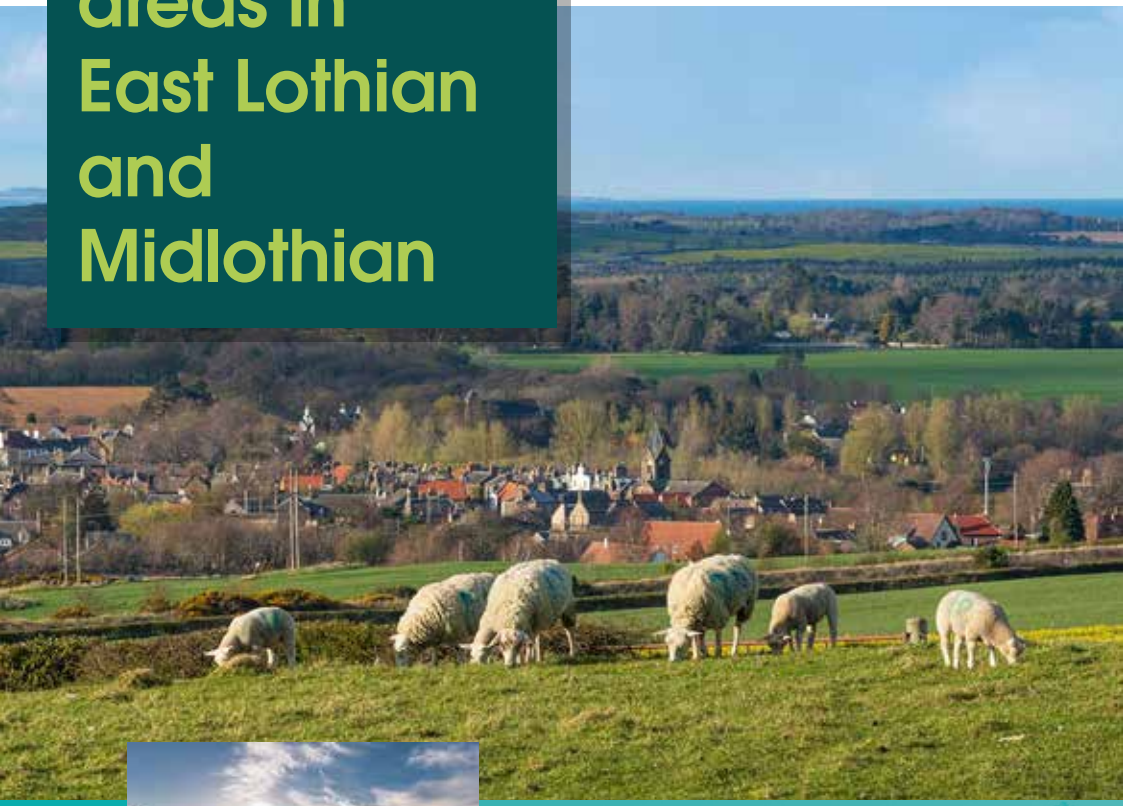
Funding rural areas in East Lothian and Midlothian

Tyne & Esk
Rural Communities Development Fund



Community Led Local Development

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

www.tyneesk.co.uk

The Tyne & Esk Rural Communities Development Fund is part of the Scottish Government's Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Rural Programme.

This initiative is grounded in a bottom-up approach, empowering local communities to shape their own development priorities.

Funding and project support decisions are made by the **Local Action Group (LAG)**, which is made up of voluntary local representatives who contribute community insight and leadership to the process

This participatory model ensures that development is locally driven, inclusive, and responsive to the unique needs of rural areas.

Funding Scope and Strategic Aim

The Tyne & Esk Rural Communities Development Fund is designed to support the overarching goal of enhancing resilience and opportunity within rural communities. It aims to increase support for local individuals, community groups, and businesses, with a strong emphasis on advancing inclusion, equality, and diversity.

This fund operates within the framework of the Scottish Government's **Community Led Local Development (CLLD)** Rural Programme, which prioritises a bottom-up approach to decision-making. Local people, through the Local Action Group (LAG), play a central role in shaping funding priorities and approving projects.

CLLD offers

- **Small grants for projects of different sizes and types**
- **Support during the whole funding process, so you will never feel alone**
- **Community representatives who ensure funding is spent wisely across the rural communities in East Lothian and Midlothian.**

Geographic Coverage

Funding is available to all rural communities within the Tyne & Esk area, which includes:

- **East Lothian**
- **Midlothian, including Dalkeith Country Park**

Note: Urban centres such as Musselburgh and Dalkeith town centre are excluded from the funding area.

Impact of the Tyne & Esk Rural Communities Development Fund

Since its launch in November 2022, the **Tyne & Esk Rural Communities Development Fund** has awarded over **£750,000** to **68** local groups and projects across East Lothian and Midlothian. While the direct financial investment is substantial, the true value to communities has been recognised as significantly greater, reflecting the wide-reaching social and economic benefits generated.

Funded projects have focused on supporting rural communities, individuals, and businesses, with a strong emphasis on advancing inclusion, equality, and diversity.

These initiatives have contributed to building more resilient, connected, and empowered communities throughout the Tyne & Esk area.

Social Value Engine

SVE 2024/25

Total Investment: £303,830

Total Social Impact: £1,970,000

Social Return on Investment (SROI): £6.17 per £1 invested

Social Return on Investment (SROI) to each £1 of funding

2022/23	**£4.86**
2023/24	**£7.72**
2024/25	**£6.17**

Over three years the average SROI to £1 of funding was **£6.25**

Social Return on Investment (SROI) and Broader Impact

As part of the programme's ongoing reporting, a range of social value outcomes resulting from funded projects are evaluated. These outcomes include:

- **Enhanced opportunities and support for young people**
- **Increased engagement and capacity-building among volunteers**
- **Positive environmental impacts across rural communities**

Using nationally recognised **Social Return on Investment (SROI)** principles, which assign a monetary value to non-financial benefits, it has been calculated that the overall value generated by funded projects significantly exceeds the initial financial investment.

These outcomes reflect the broader social impact of the Tyne & Esk Rural Communities Development Fund, demonstrating its effectiveness in fostering:

- **Inclusive growth by supporting marginalised groups and promoting equal opportunities**
- **Equitable development through targeted support for rural communities**
- **Sustainable outcomes including environmental improvements and long-term community resilience**

This evidence-based approach highlights the fund's role in delivering meaningful change across East Lothian and Midlothian, beyond the financial figures alone.

Funder Finder Subscription Impact (2023–2025)

As part of its broader support strategy, the Tyne & Esk Rural Communities Development Fund funded a subscription to **Funder Finder**, an online platform that helps businesses, community groups, and charitable organisations identify relevant funding opportunities.

These figures *(right)* highlight the cost-effectiveness and strategic value of the subscription, demonstrating how a relatively small investment can yield substantial benefits for rural communities.

KEY OUTCOMES

Return on Investment:

For every £1 invested, the service has generated **£4.34** in funding during 2024/25

User Engagement

- **240** registered users
- Representing **225** distinct local organisations

Funding Leveraged

- A total of **£56,300** has been brought into the local region through use of the service.

Projects funded -
www.tyneesk.co.uk/our-projects

Funding Application Timeline

PHASE	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
Application Launch	Funding applications open to eligible participants	**May**
Application Deadline	Final date for submission of funding applications	**June**
Funding Decisions	Review and notification of successful applicants	July
Project Completion	All funded projects must be fully completed	**By 28th Feb** (following year)

What next?
Apply for funding!
(use QR code)

Tyne & Esk Rural Communities Development Fund

Contact the Tyne & Esk Project Officer: 01620 82 7002

For further information on the Tyne & Esk Programme and projects that have been funded go to **www.tyneesk.co.uk**

Supported by

Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba
East Lothian Council
Midlothian