



**BUILDING COMMUNITY
WEALTH THROUGH
STRATEGIC COLLABORATION**

Who We Are

The 9 Community Council Group is a charitable trust uniting the nine communities of

- Auchinleck;
- Cumnock;
- Ochiltree and Skares;
- Drongan, Rankinson and Stair;
- New Cumnock;
- Cronberry, Lugar and Logan;
- Dalmellington;
- Patna; and
- Netherthird

To manage and administer a fair share distribution of community benefit funds from multiple Wind Farm Developments to improve their local areas and invest in their future.

Each community is impacted by windfarm developments either under construction or planned to be sited nearby and our role is to ensure the nine communities' benefit both individually and collectively by aligning Windfarm Community Benefit Funding to meet the needs of each individual community and the wider strategic plan for the area.

The 9CC Group community benefit funding model has continued to gain positive recognition and support at a local, regional and national level. Our pioneering and innovative approach to ensure funding decisions are made collectively and in collaboration with the local communities and wider region impacted is now widely endorsed as a blueprint for Scotland with growing political, industry sector and media support.

Mission Statement

The 9CC Group is a charitable trust unifying 9 independent community councils to manage and fairly distribute community benefits from multiple wind farms in a local, democratic and transparent manner to improve the lives of residents and communities by investing in their economic, social and environmental wellbeing for future generations.

Vision Statement

To create a lasting legacy for our communities and build a better place to live, work, play and visit

9CCG Values

- Open and transparent
- Informative, approachable & accessible
- Collaborative, fair & equitable
- Competent & Professional
- Innovative & forward thinking
- Passionate about our communities

The 9CC group has four key objectives:

1. To ensure all communities across our area can benefit from the funds allocated in line with the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles, the Onshore Wind Sector Deal which demonstrate local democracy and deliver community wealth building.
2. To create strong governance, efficiency, transparency and accountability for the funds including the value collected, how they are distributed and what they support.
3. To ensure that our communities are fully engaged in the funding decisions and empowered through the management of the funds.
4. To enable collaborative and high value projects which lead to long-term socio-economic impacts.



FROM A COMMUNITY MEETING TO A £100 MILLION PARTNERSHIP

What began as an informal community meeting, marked by wariness and suspicion about *“who was going to get what and why”* has transformed into one of Scotland's most innovative, exciting and inspiring models of community wealth building.

The 9CC Group's (9CCG) journey demonstrates how nine previously disconnected community councils in East Ayrshire's former coalfield areas united to access and manage substantial wind farm benefits, creating a legacy that previous regeneration efforts failed to achieve.

THE CHALLENGE: LEARNING FROM HISTORY



Following the demise of the mining sector investments from various regeneration funds failed to significantly benefit local communities over the long-term, leaving no lasting impact on these once thriving communities. So, when wind farm developers offered the potential for community benefits extending over 30-35 years, local leaders were determined not to repeat past mistakes. But how could nine independent community councils, each with their own priorities and concerns, work together effectively?

THE SOLUTION: BUILDING TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY



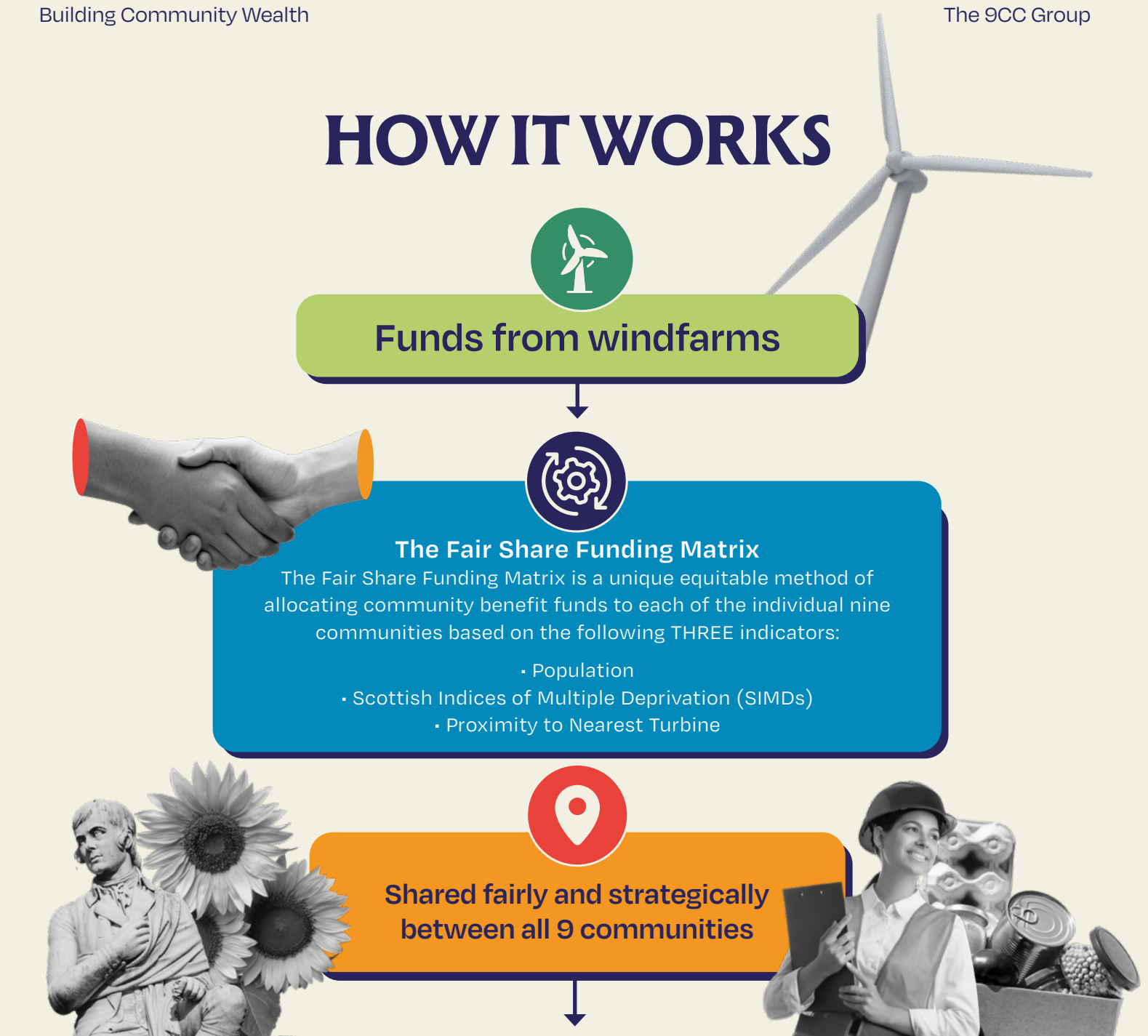
The breakthrough came through innovation and persistence. Working with support from Local Energy Scotland, East Ayrshire Council, and wind farm developers, the nine community councils created what would become their cornerstone: the Matrix.

THE MATRIX:



A transparent funding allocation system based on population, proximity to turbines, and deprivation indices. This became, as members describe it, *“the glue that holds the communities together,”* transforming suspicion into trust.

HOW IT WORKS



“THE GLUE THAT HOLDS THE COMMUNITIES TOGETHER”



Investing
in community centres, sports and leisure clubs



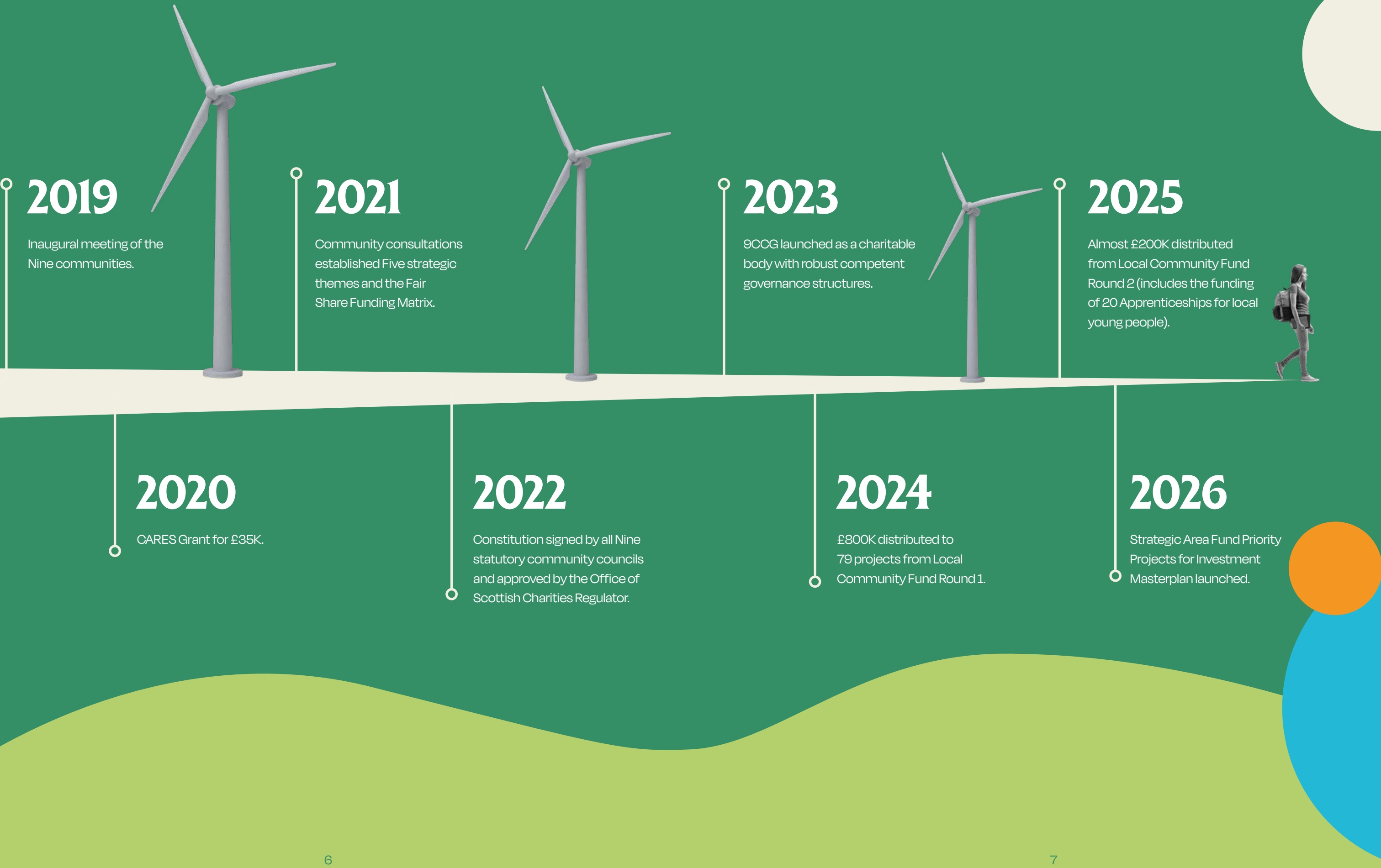
Improving
Infrastructure and public spaces



Supporting
families, children and the elderly

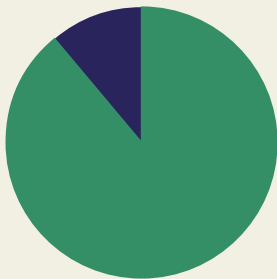


Creating
jobs and building community wealth



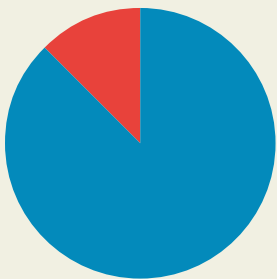
MEASURABLE IMPACT: TRUST IN NUMBERS

Recent independent research has captured what many felt to be true, but couldn't quantify clearly, the transformation in relationships and trust:



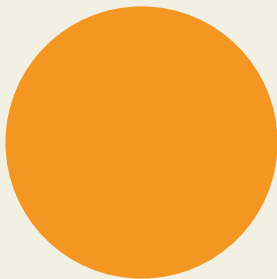
89%

of stakeholders report significantly improved trust between communities.



87.5%

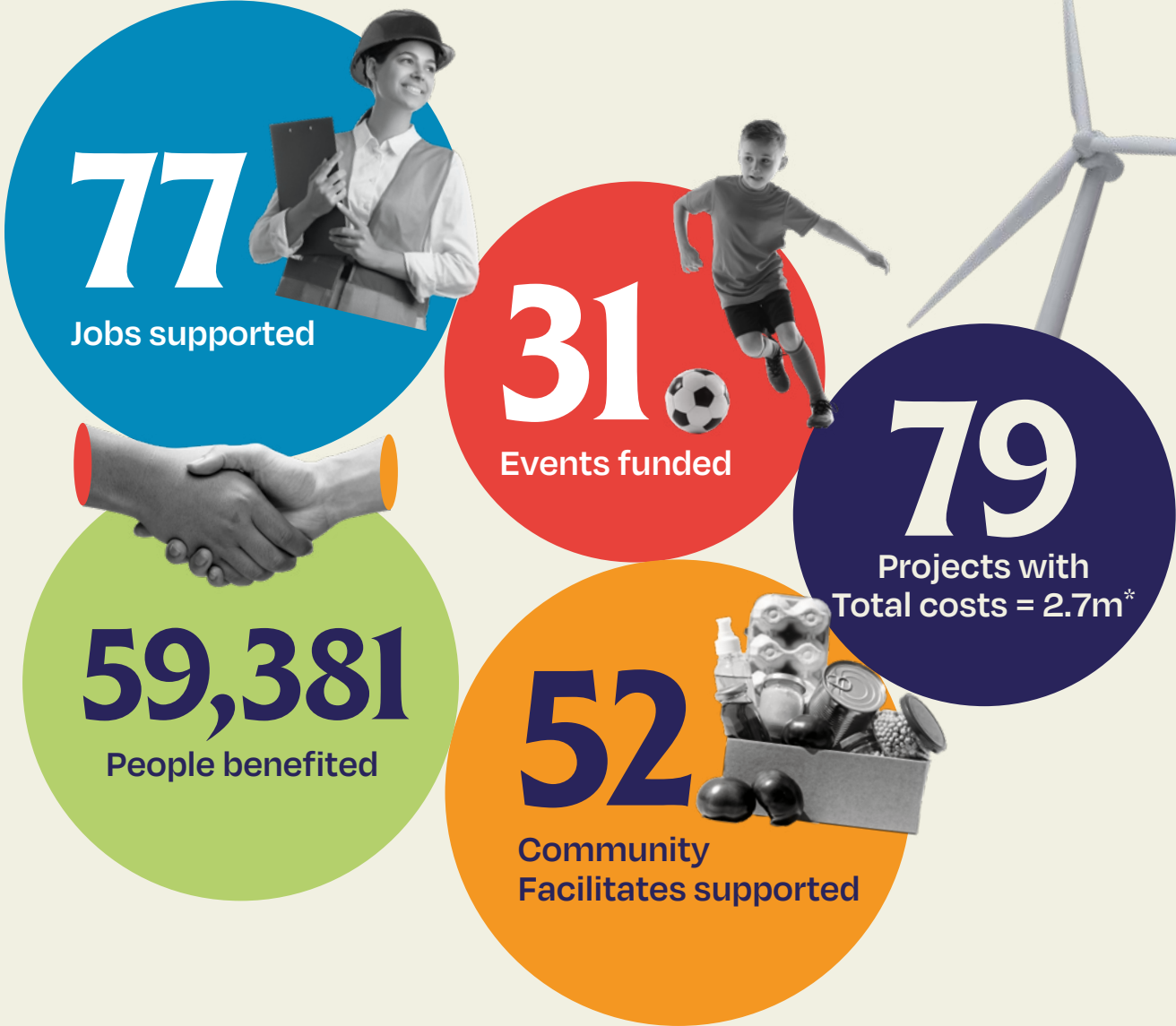
of members now collaborate "very frequently" compared to occasionally.



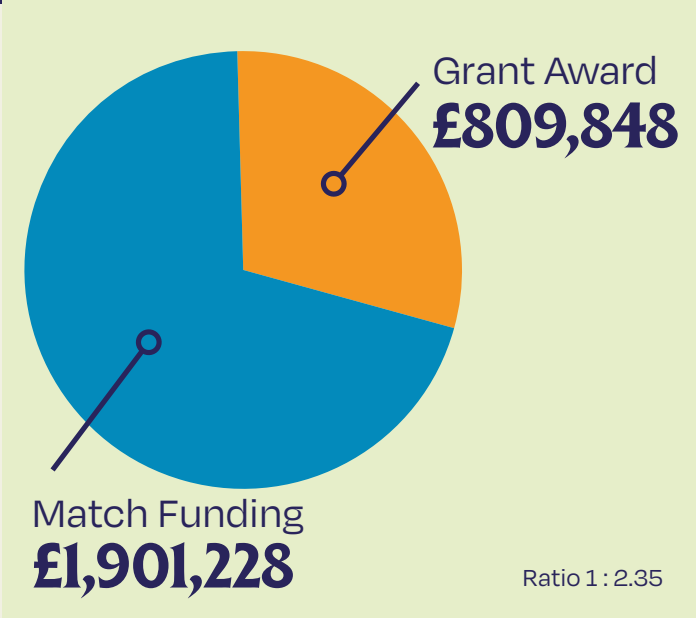
100%

positive outlook on future sustainability.

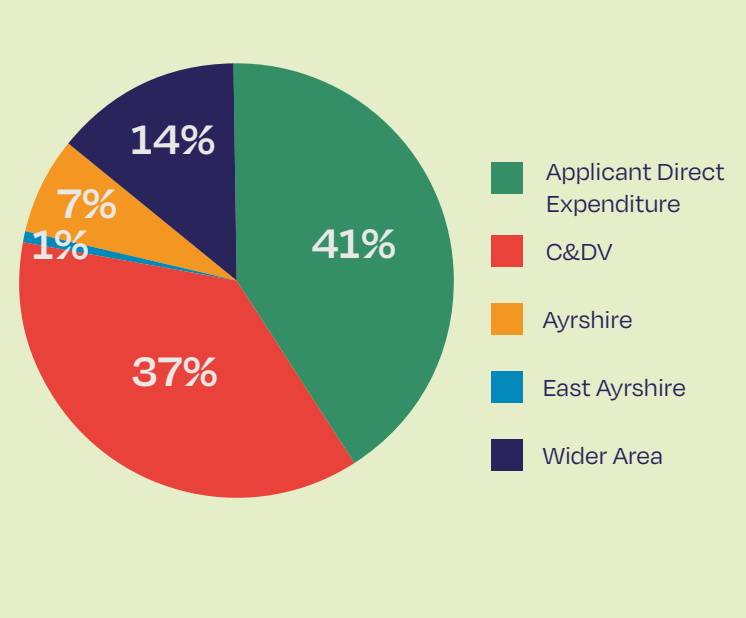
These figures represent more than statistics; they reflect the deep social capital built through patient relationship-building and transparent governance.



Grants Award / Match Funding Ratio



Community Wealth building Investment - by %



THE 5 STEPS TO COLLABORATIVE WORKING



THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE VOICE

"It's almost a miracle to get 9 communities to collaborate" noted one strategic partner. Yet this 'miracle' emerged through deliberate choices: choosing collaboration over competition, and long-term legacy over short-term gains.

Going forward, partners are supportive of the expansion of membership beyond current participants in 9CCG. This inclusive approach aims to welcome additional areas into the framework, potentially creating a larger pooled funding structure that could benefit all participants through collaborative planning and shared resources. Additionally, 9CCG's success has encouraged wind farm developers to look at deepening shared ownership approaches. Traditional annual funding awards are evolving into longer-term legal agreements that could provide 9CCG with greater funding security.

As 9CCG prepares to manage millions in community benefits, their journey offers a replicable model for communities across Scotland and beyond. Their success proves that with the right framework, governance, and commitment to relationship-building, communities can transform initial suspicion into enduring solidarity, creating wealth that truly belongs to and benefits everyone.





This summary captures key insights from comprehensive research by Nectis Ltd, documenting 9CCG's development. The full report, which includes detailed survey results, stakeholder interviews, and strategic analysis, reveals how trust and collaboration (intangible yet crucial elements) can be can be quantified and visualised through specifically structured reporting.

For communities embarking on similar journeys, understanding both the practical frameworks and the human dynamics behind successful collaboration is essential.

For the complete report detailing 9CCG's journey, governance structures, and comprehensive research findings, please contact Stephen McCarron, COO 9CCG stephen.mccarron@live.co.uk

For further information on how to document and amplify your community's success story contact Nectis at info@unlockingpotential.io