



The Garioch Partnership
SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

The Garioch Partnership

Trustees' Annual Report
Period 01/04/2020 – 31/03/2021



THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

Contents

	Page
Trustees' report	3 - 11
Independent examiner's report	12
Statement of receipts and payments	13
Statement of balances	14
Notes to the accounts	15-16

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021

The trustee's have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2021.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name	The Garioch Partnership
Charity number	SC043548
Trustees	J Chapman - Chairman M Chapman - Treasurer N Wright - Secretary J Mathers V Spencer H Fulford
Principal address	1st Floor, Wyness Hall Jackson Street Inverurie Aberdeenshire AB51 3QB
Telephone number	01467 628801
Email address	<u>chairperson@gariochpartnership.org.uk</u>
Website	<u>www.gariochpartnership.org.uk</u>
Facebook	<u>https://www.facebook.com/GariochPartnership</u>
Twitter	<u>https://twitter.com/GariochPartners/</u>
Independent examiner	Kelly Barclay ACMA 4 Hervey Park Newmachar Aberdeenshire AB21 0FP

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Introduction:

This is The Garioch Partnership's ninth annual report since it formed in January 2012, to fill the gap in Garioch, at that time which was the only administrative area that did not have a Local Rural Partnership. The Garioch Partnership (TGP) is a community-led organisation that uses its members' networks to build stronger, more successful, more sustainable communities in the Garioch Area of Aberdeenshire. It gained charitable status in November 2012 and is recognised as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), Scottish Charity no: SC043548.

Objectives

From OSCR our objectives are...

"The Garioch Partnership is a community orientated organisation which advances community development by supporting and assisting voluntary groups in Garioch with community capacity building and skills development."

Type of Governing Document

We are a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, established in 2012.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

We appoint our trustees at the AGM each year, and have the power to co-opt when required. We currently have six trustees as listed above.

A Foreword from Our Chairperson

It is difficult to compose a foreword for this year's annual report without having to start with an ending. I expect you are all aware of the decision made by the board to discontinue our partnership with Aberdeenshire Council. With the major changes to funding in the next two years and a new Service Level Agreement, it made it impossible to continue without a major change in structure, abandoning the charitable status of TGP. We will continue to provide sign posting via our website, although funding in the future to maintain this facility will cease. Even so, it would be difficult to ignore the work done during the year 2020/21 even during these difficult times, when face to face meeting with community groups, who most of were not operating, advise was given on technology and web and video conferencing to assist.

During the pandemic the board of TGP successfully applied for external funding from the Supporting Community Fund, to the tune of £11,100, which was distributed to groups in Garioch and Aberdeenshire. Support was also given by the board to our full-time employee during a difficult personal health situation during the COVID pandemic. The board managed to engage an assistant to help manage the CIGs and SCF grants and who we will be looking to assist further as we step into 2021/22. Thankfully this was funded using reserves from a previous year and fiscal management in the past, otherwise who knows what would have happened. TGP are now looking at a planned closure of contracts with other companies engaged with, some with early penalties payable.

Role and Policy Context

Our Role:

The role of the partnership is wide-ranging and involves working with community groups, statutory agencies and Community Planning Partners on local and Aberdeenshire wide issues, helping to advance sustainable economic, social and environmental development projects and increasingly helping to identify opportunities within the social economy, leading to future sustainability. The partnership is confident that it plays an important role in the development of the many diverse communities in Garioch and to the wider quality of life. TGP prides itself in the support and nurturing of its staff and volunteers, to this end, they continue to nurture their development worker, supporting her in further academic work, with a continuation of her studies as she continues to work towards a Master's Degree in Community Learning and Development. Dawn was due to do her focus groups between Easter and Summer – on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

Policy Context: Improved Outcomes:

Working closely with Economic Development and the Area Manager, The Garioch Partnership will:

- (i) Promote Community Economic Development by supporting groups throughout their area with information, implementation and community engagement, to build inclusive and sustainable projects.
- (ii) Provide a local advice service to groups seeking to develop community assets and facilities. This includes options for organisational structures, governance, funding, along with other areas required to help realise opportunities in their communities.
- (iii) Provide enterprise and administrative advice to social/community enterprises seeking to develop economic opportunities.
- (iv) Develop and support Community Action Plans and other appropriate processes for engagement of communities.
- (v) Identify and implement ways to help communities understand issues around community planning and budget allocation. Together with partner staff, they will seek innovative funding and management solutions to overcome challenges.
- (vi) Ensure and facilitate a two-way flow of information relating to the needs and priorities of voluntary sector partners, wider community contacts, Aberdeenshire Council, Community Planning Partners, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action and the Local Community Planning Group.
- (vii) Identify and implement ways to help communities understand issues around community planning and budget allocation. Together with partner staff they will seek innovative funding and management solutions to overcome challenges facing the community.
- (viii) Positively promote equality of opportunity for the whole population of the area. Where the opportunity arises work within groups with protected characteristics to help them achieve positive impacts. Provide evidence of the work undertaken and the positive impacts achieved in the annual reporting and monitoring arrangement

Funding:

To date, TGP has accessed core funding from Aberdeenshire Council. The Council's investment this year (2020/21) was £33,900. The majority of this came from the Economic Development Service (£30,900), with the balance (£3,000) from the Garioch Area Manager's budget. This budget was similar to 2019/20 and granted under emergency powers from Aberdeenshire Council under COVID restriction.

There is a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Economic Development Service and the Partnership, included with the SLA for 2020/21 is an action plan highlighting the outcomes, which is included in Appendix A. Normally there would have been a monitoring visit with one of the Business Development Executives from Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development, but due to COVID-19, this did not happen within this year.

In addition, as in previous financial years, the Garioch Area Committee allocated £5,000 to TGP from its Area Top-up Budget to administer for the Community Initiative small grants scheme, which it continues to support on behalf of the Garioch Area Committee.

Additional funding for specific pieces of work has been sourced from the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation for work on Community Action Plans.

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

This year, we also were successful in an application to The National Lottery Awards for All grant of £ 7,000 which allowed us to buy in skills to support organisations to develop a more accessible online presence, and for TGP to redevelop its website – making it more user friendly, accessible and useable.

TGP has again seen an increase in its demand from groups for Independent Examination of members and non-members accounts.

Impact of Covid-19

It would be impossible to write the annual report without reflecting on the impact of Covid-19. As we all stood and watched the lockdown unfold at the end of the 2019/2020 period and stay with us through the majority of 2020/21 reporting period, this has meant a change in ways of working for TGP. We went from being a face-to-face, out in the community organisation, to having to rethink service delivery to an online and virtual model.

Whilst this has come with obvious advantages regarding carbon footprints for travel, the savings on mileage, and the freeing up of the time that would be used for such travel, it has come at a cost in a number of other ways.

We saw the vast majority of our local community organisations pause, closing services deemed non-essential, and swathes of community fundraising events cancelled. Organisations battened down the hatches and hoped that the initial three-week lockdown would pass. As we all know now, this was to be a much longer lockdown.

The last year has passed in a blur of negotiating harder and softer lockdowns, and varying levels of restrictions, with a number of organisations not yet able to reopen.

However, it has also shown the very best of our communities, with people stepping up to help each other. Never has the hand of friendship proffered been more obvious. I think Garioch can be immensely proud of what has been done.

We saw the responsiveness and quick thinking that third sector organisations are so well known for coming to the fore. Community pantries and larders sprang up to help those in need, supporting people experiencing poverty to access vital food and supplies with dignity and respect. Local groups came together to protect the vulnerable and ensure no one was left with a lack of provisions or medications. The speed, care and diligence that came to the front was inspiring. We always knew Garioch was the heart of Aberdeenshire, and our communities showed they had heart in abundance.

As the world starts to move towards reopening and life post-covid, we can hope the spirit of compassion, volunteering and supporting one another continues.

Activities and achievements:

Developing a strong partnership

TGP continued to grow as a partnership, with new members, albeit at a slower rate due to Covid-19.

We continued to distribute the *Garioch Gazette*, switching from community news and funding to Covid-19 information and support. The Gazette is distributed through our mailing list, and was a source of information in quickly changing times. We continue to highlight available funding, advice and guidance – especially highlighting areas of practice that have been impacted by Covid-19, like annual returns and the OSCR information on hosting AGM's and trustee meetings virtually.

We ensured groups had access to up-to-date information, and signposted to events such as the Economic Development Halls webinars, and SCVO events.

We also made sure that information was accessible to the community by working with the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation to populate a map signposting to all local groups offering help and support.

We made use of the National Lottery Awards for All grant to have a much overdue update of the Partnership website to make it more accessible on mobile devices, and to enable us to use it more effectively as a resource to disseminate information out to groups.

Supporting Community Groups

As always, TGP has continued to support community groups, helping them navigate the challenges Covid-19 has raised, ensuring they are aware of their responsibilities and allowances throughout. We supported organisations to move their meetings online, and to update their governing documents to allow this to happen.

We supported groups to access Independent Examinations to help them meet their statutory requirements, working as flexibly as we could to ensure Covid-19 safety compliance while still effectively discharging their trustee duties.

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

We saw a number of local groups that we have supported successfully draw down funding. One of the highlights was the successful Scottish Land Fund application from the Garioch Heritage Centre, getting £466,000 to allow them to buy the centre – which opens up a myriad of opportunities for them going forward. We were privileged to play a small part in supporting their application.

We effectively distributed the Community Initiatives Grant fund of £5,000 to a wide range of community groups helping them deliver some innovative and new work.

Organisation	Project	Award (£)
Kinellar Stars	Art and Craft kit	250.00
Kemnay Breakfast and After School Club	Provision of outdoor play equipment	500.00
Support & Wellbeing Coop (COVID)	Growing community support options in Garioch	302.91
Leaders In Sport	New branded sportswear for leaders	200.00
Kintore Childminding Group	Outdoor learning equipment	751.72
1st Kinellar Scout Group	Hammocks and tarps	640.00
Friends of the Amal Project	Craft packs and bi-lingual books	550.00
Newmachar & Kingseat Community Allotments	Allotment establishment materials	655.00
Fintray School Association	Outdoor equipment	400.37
Premnay Hall & Community Association	Hall project – post Covid support	750.00

We also awarded a number of resilience grants from the Resilience money TGP holds.

Organisation	Project	Award (£)
Inverurie Community Energy Society	Marketing new energy initiative	1000.00
Inverurie Community Council	Community litter picking	712.93

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Communities Fund (SCF)

We were successful in applying for the SCF through Development Trust Association Scotland and drew down £11,100 to distribute to groups across the Garioch area to support their Covid-19 recovery.

Organisation	Project	Award (£)
Sunrise Partnership	Covid-19 Support Sessions	750.84
Care Family Meet	Interactive Fun & Wellbeing Group Activities	176.59
LD GROUP Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire	Safe Working	534.45
PSGI	Improving Digital Connections for PSGI	600.00
St Andrew's Parish Church	Live Stream capability outside Church premises	600.00
Action Kintore	The Bothie	655.00
Fly Cup Catering	Screens for One Way Customer Flow	1000.00
Steps into Wellness	Resuming Community Groups During Covid-19	439.55
Kintore Parish Church	Reopening of church building	209.00
The Garioch Partnership	Getting Back to Community Work Safely	876.25
SensationALL	Reopening of SensationALL's centre	750.00
Kemnay Village Hall	Purchase of hand sanitising stations	429.60
Milne Hall	Re-opening of the Milne Hall	300.00
Insch-Leslie-Premnay-Oyne Parish Church	Insch-Leslie-Premnay-Oyne Parish Church and Community Food Bank	500.00 500.00
LATNEM	Mindfulness Crafternoons	564.94
Schools Out! Club Westhill	Covid-19 Safety Measures Additional Costs	960.00
PECH	Food Vouchers	462.56
Support & Wellbeing Coop	Growing community support options in Garioch	697.09

Community action plans:

We were able to finalise and print the Insch and Sauchen Community Action Plans this year. Due to the restrictions, no further action plans were started.

Aberdeenshire Third Sector Week (ATSW)

TGP was delighted to play a part in the delivery of the inaugural ATSW. Sadly, switched to a virtual online event due to Covid-19, but still a fabulous week of showcasing all Aberdeenshire, and Garioch has to offer. We supported a number of organisations to provide video and imagery, which was shared on social media and on our Rural Partnerships partner Kincardine Development Partnership's YouTube channel, KDPTV.



THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

Strategic Partnerships

TGP continued to be an active participant in the local community planning group, the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation, LEADER (community led local development European Funding), the local and Aberdeenshire Local Learning Partnerships, as well as amongst others DTAS, Scottish Government, the Council's Community Learning and Development staff, AVA, NHS Grampian, and the Garioch Community Planning Officer, and also with SCDN (Scottish Community Development Network) SCDC (Scottish Community Development Centre) Scottish Rural Action (The Scottish Rural Parliament) and Scottish Parliament Outreach Team.

Testimonials

SensationALL

"The Garioch Partnership and SensationALL have long enjoyed a strong and supportive relationship! TGP have consistently provided funding for us over several years, allowing us to expand and develop our services to be 'needs led' at all times. Dawn Brown has been a regular source of advice and support for both our staff and the board, including facilitating a strategic development event and providing regular signposting to networking opportunities. This included involving SensationALL within the Community Economic Development visit in 2019, which allowed us to be part of a crucial discussion with key council officials and other social enterprises and 3rd sector organisations around creating a resilient community. TGP are always on hand to offer support and advice where needed and have been a key driver in assisting us to shape our organisation and connect with the local community. We are very grateful for their input and look forward to continue working together in the future!"



Action Kintore, The Bothie

"The Garioch Partnership have been a great support for Action Kintore over the years and we wouldn't be in the great place we are as a committee without them. Dawn Brown has been a fantastic help to us in many ways, but in particular she helped with funding applications and their processes, GDPR legislations and connecting with other local organisations in the area, and we cannot thank her the Garioch Partnership enough. A great organisation for many of us in the Garioch area."



has
and

Premnay Hall and Community Association

"As always, your help and guidance with the Premnay committee has been second to none. Your advice has kept us on the right track and allowed us to move forward. We have future plans to get grant funding to improve the hall and we know that you will drive us in the right direction for this. We are a small community, but you help to make us a big effective village. I have tremendous respect for your knowledge and work ethic and am so glad you are with us. Without Dawn's amazing knowledge and support we would have so many missed opportunities and certainly a tremendously stressful task of form filling and compliance had you not helped us navigate it all."



Garioch Heritage Society

"The Garioch Partnership was most helpful in our Scottish Land Fund application from the outset, providing advice on our proposed community buy out and facilitating two initial public meetings."



THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

The Future of TGP

It is with much sadness that TGP has been driven to restructure the Partnership. Due to a significant decrease in core funding from Aberdeenshire Council, TGP underwent an organisational review.

The funding offer from Aberdeenshire Council was for a final 2 years at a reduction of one third of the previous level, and changes to the Service Level Agreement. The review process quickly led us to the fact that this was a notifiable event for OSCR in terms of our funding, and would have a drastic impact on what the Partnership could offer.

TGP felt that any response would at best be a short-term fix, with only 2 years of reduced core funding on offer from Aberdeenshire Council. TGP did explore other avenues of funding, but felt conflicted that applying for these would put us into direct competition with our member groups, and we felt that was not the road to go down. It would also have meant a change in ways of working, not being able to continue to grow the meaningful relationships we currently have, and having to make work into a project basis. As a small organisation and Board of Trustees, we felt this was unsustainable, and placed the organisation at a number of risks.

With all the information in hand, the Board of Trustees took the difficult decision to reshape the Partnership into a much leaner, smaller organisation, signposting and giving information rather than delivering support and advice. This has meant that our current Community Development Manager (formerly Development Worker) will be made redundant in the very early stages of the 2021/22 financial year, and the Partnership will retain one part-time contractor to update the website, social media and issue newsletters, to try and support the communities to access information and opportunities. It will be feasible to retain a contractor due to the careful management of funding and through prudent use of our reserves.

We are obviously deeply saddened that we have to take these steps, but it felt like the only responsible steps we could take to discharge our trustee responsibilities and protect our staff. We realise the impact this will have on a number of local organisations, and hope in some small way that the signposting we will be able to do will be of some help.

Final Reflection

Whilst we are deeply sad that this is the end of TGP as we know it, looking back on the achievements over the last 9 years is a proud and happy moment of reflection. Friendships and networks have been created, organisations, groups and people have grown, developed and flourished and made Garioch a stronger, more sustainable and happier place to live, work and rest.


We wish to give a vote of thanks to all of our supporters and allies over the last 9 years, to those who have given time – the Board members, membership groups, people who attended our events and forum meetings, those who receive and share our newsletter, and to our wider strategic partners.

We will all miss working with you!

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees:

	
Print name	John Chapman
Designation	Chairperson, The Garioch Partnership
Date	June 2021

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 14 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Kelly Barclay ACMA

4 Hervey Park
Newmachar
Aberdeenshire
AB21 0FP

1 August 2021

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING A STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	2021	2020
	£	£	Funds	Funds
			£	£
Receipts				
Donations	-		-	130
Grants	50,500	5,225	55,725	39,507
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	880		880	480
Bank interest	39		39	38
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total receipts	51,419	5,225	56,644	40,155
Payments for charitable activities:				
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	35,972		35,972	32,955
Grants and donations	-	12,183	12,183	8,018
AGM & forum costs	-		-	157
Purchase of equipment	6,657		6,657	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total payments for charitable activities	42,629	12,183	54,812	41,130
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Governance costs	125		125	150
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total payments	42,754	12,183	54,937	41,280
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	8,665	(6,958)	1,708	(1,125)

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING A STATEMENT OF BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Unrestricte d funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021 £	2020 £
Bank and cash in hand				
Opening balances				
Cash & Bank Balances	42,030	27,990	70,020	71,145
Surplus for year	8,665	(6,958)	1,708	(1,125)
Closing balances	<u>50,695</u>	<u>21,033</u>	<u>71,728</u>	<u>70,020</u>
Liabilities				
Cash held on behalf of others	-	6,771	6,771	6,921
Governance Costs	125	-	125	300
Closing balances	<u>125</u>	<u>6,921</u>	<u>7,221</u>	<u>7,221</u>

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

1.2 Nature & purpose of funds

There is an unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the Charity. The unrestricted funds are those that are without specified purpose and may be used at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objectives of the Charity.

The restricted funds are the funds that have been allocated to specific community action plans and these funds are to be used in accordance with the instructions from the donor.

2 Donations and gifts

	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Restricted £	2020 £
Inverurie Community Council	-	-	130
	-	-	130

3 Grants

	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Restricted £	2020 £
Aberdeenshire Council Service Level Agreement	30,900		30,900
Aberdeenshire Council Initiative Grant Funds		5,225	957
Aberdeenshire Council Community Action Plan Funds	1,500		8,000
The National Lottery Awards for All	7,000		-
Supporting Community Fund	11,100		-
	50,500	5,225	39,857

4 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Restricted £	2020 £
Community Events	880		480
	880	-	480

THE GARIOCH PARTNERSHIP
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

5 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	
	£	£	£
Venue Hire	198		1,031
Subscription	-		121
Telephone	734		615
Insurance	166		-
Office and administration costs	115		1,205
Staff Costs	34,759		30,333
IT & Software costs	-		-
	35,972	-	33,305

6 Trustees

No remuneration was paid to the trustees (or any persons connected with them) during the year. Trustees were reimbursed for expenses, paid for personally on behalf of the Charity.