

ABC Foundation Report

2025 – 2026

Supporting Communities Through Pop-Up Shops,
Shared Spaces and Fairer Rates Relief

How a £4,000 grant is helping Rutherglen, Ayr and the wider third sector



Eat Up operational van supporting community work

Eat Up (Scottish Charity SC048548) works to relieve poverty and advance community development across Renfrewshire, Glasgow, North Lanarkshire and beyond. We redistribute surplus food, create welcoming community spaces, and support practical local activity.

A £4,000 grant has enabled us to develop three connected strands of work: pop-up charity shops in Rutherglen and Ayr, the RateWatch network that helps the third sector secure fair charitable rates relief, and office/community space in Ayr. Together these strengthen both our own activities and the wider sector's ability to operate sustainably.

Key activities supported: Pop-up shops • RateWatch • Ayr community space

Pop-Up Charity Shops in Rutherglen and Ayr

With support from the grant we have developed pop-up charity shops in Rutherglen (including activity at 88 Main Street) and Ayr. These temporary shops offer clothing, books, DVDs, games and household items on a simple “pay what you think it’s worth” basis.

The model keeps good-quality goods affordable for local people, reduces waste through reuse, creates volunteering opportunities and raises modest funds for our charitable work. It also provides a welcoming place for people to browse, donate and connect.



DVD, book and clothing displays • “Pay what you think it’s worth” shop frontage

The shops advance our purposes by making essential and everyday items more accessible, supporting community engagement, and generating resources for poverty-relief and community-development work.



Books, clothing and community browsing space inside a pop-up shop

RateWatch: Supporting Fair Charitable Rates Relief

RateWatch is a practical collaborative network and resource we are developing so other charities and community groups can better navigate mandatory 80% charitable rates relief under the Local Government (Financial Provisions etc.) (Scotland) Act 1962.

Genuine charitable use of buildings is sometimes questioned or refused because of inconsistent processes or incomplete understanding of how volunteer-led organisations actually operate. RateWatch documents real experiences (including our own Stranraer case), shares practical knowledge and templates, and supports clearer, fairer decision-making that recognises genuine charitable purpose.



RateWatch story: from a real rates-relief challenge to a practical third-sector solution

The grant has helped us develop the RateWatch approach, website (ratewatchn.online) and supporting materials. This strengthens the wider third sector's ability to operate sustainably and advances community development across Scotland. Related advocacy includes petition PE2236.

Office and Community Space in Ayr

Part of the funding has supported the creation of office and community space in Ayr (linked to Boswell House / former TJ Jones premises). The space provides a base for coordinating the pop-up shops and RateWatch work, offers practical help to other third-sector groups, and is being developed as a welcoming place for community activity, including plans for coffee and tea.



Community space with tables for activities • Suggested-donation counter (Eat Up SC048548)

Together, the pop-up shops, RateWatch and the Ayr space show how a modest grant can strengthen both our own work and the wider sector. All activity advances our charitable purposes of relieving poverty and advancing citizenship and community development.

Thank you for the support that has made this possible. We look forward to building on these foundations.

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Eat Up | Scottish Charity SC048548
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