CHAIRMAN’S REVIEW

EMPOWERING Progress

MARCH 2019
All of us have the power to make a difference.
When I established The Wood Foundation in 2007 with my immediate family, our goal was to address some of the inequities facing individuals and communities.

Our diverse range of investments and programmes have gone a long way to do just this. I am immensely proud of what The Wood Foundation teams in Scotland and East Africa have achieved in terms of developing education, community and economic frameworks. These have already reaped significant benefits and, most importantly, provided platforms for long-term, sustainable change.

Empowering progress, the principle that lies at the heart of everything we do and believe in, is the title of this Chairman’s Review. Whether with the smallholder farmer in Tanzania or a young person in Scotland, our projects focus on improving their knowledge, skills and motivation to help them to help themselves and facilitate sustainable development in their environments.

Within this publication, we share the goals, thoughts, outcomes and ambitions of The Wood Foundation’s programmes and investments and celebrate some of the individuals who have been empowered to progress their own life skills, philanthropic efforts and economic stability as a result, creating a positive impact on our world.

To me, the word philanthropy means simply caring and doing what you can to create a positive impact in the world. Some of the greatest and most inspiring philanthropists are those working tirelessly and quietly in communities, using their skills, time and resources to make the world a better, more equitable place. We salute all of them.

All of us have the power to make a difference.
Since 2010, The Wood Foundation Africa has established itself as the pre-eminent philanthropic investor supporting smallholder tea farmers in East Africa.

We have achieved this by engaging and developing top quality tea industry management teams in field and factory, applying innovative smallholder service delivery models, as well as financing and supporting large new tea greenfield developments alongside major international tea corporations.

Our involvement goes way beyond finance to include direct implementation and operational engagement, as well as co-investing and sharing risk by taking significant stakes in the businesses in which we are involved or help create. By demonstrating new and innovative means of engaging with smallholders, we are encouraging the industry towards more competitive behaviour.

Through our ‘Chai’ and ‘Imbarutso’ tea industry improvement programmes in Tanzania and Rwanda, we have provided thousands of farmers with agronomic, marketing and training services and support. Additionally, our investment in two smallholder tea privatisations in Rwanda is having significant impact on the smallholder suppliers and will eventually result in the first smallholder-owned tea factories in Rwanda.

We work closely with local and national governments. Our partners include the Gatsby Charitable Foundation which is one of Lord David Sainsbury’s charities; the UK Department for International Development (DfID); Unilever, who is our partner in three major greenfield developments; and Luxmi, a pre-eminent Indian tea producer, who is our partner in a fourth greenfield development.

Looking ahead, we will continue to pursue additional opportunities to help smallholder farmers through new tea greenfield developments, or other smallholder-friendly investments that promote innovation or result in significant improvement in yield, quality, price and, ultimately, the returns to smallholders for their leaf. Over time, we also look forward to extending this experience in smallholder agriculture and service delivery models to other crops with like-minded investors.

I am very proud to be leading a world-class management team who, through these investments, are transforming smallholder livelihoods and communities in East Africa with an impact that will be felt for generations to come.

DAVID KNOPP
AFRICA DIRECTOR
david.knopp@thewoodfoundation.org.uk

The following headlines include the impact of our existing investments and those in advanced development:

- We work directly with 66,000 smallholder tea farmers who have in the region of 330,000 family dependents. Additionally, we will be providing employment for 12,000 tea pluckers and 10,000 other personnel.

- The new tea planting will cover about 14,800 hectares (Ha) of land and in total our smallholder farmers will be working 18,500Ha of tea.

- The total investment in the new field developments including the new factories, will be more than $220m.

- We are at least trebling the income of the existing farmers by enhancing their yields, quality and price. Our interventions are increasing the income of farmers planting new tea four or fivefold.

- Our Farmer Field Schools are training 4000 farmers per annum.

- We are introducing innovation and new technology into tea planting, taking advantage of block farming while incorporating climate adaptation practices to address the challenges of soil erosion and erratic rainfall patterns.

- Transformational change is clearly evident in our areas of operation. Most importantly, the interventions are sustainable, as our footprint stemming from each investment will result in a major industrial development (tea factory), a biological asset (tea bush) for the farmer, and a significantly elevated human resource capacity through direct farmer training. There is also access to sustainable agronomy support and production logistics through our indigenous farmer service companies.
INTRODUCTION

Transforming smallholder livelihoods and communities in East Africa, with an impact that will be felt for generations to come.
MULINDI AND SHAGASHA

£12 million
Investment in factories

25%
Rwanda’s entire tea production

10,000
Graduated from Farmer Field Schools

3000
Staff in field and factory

Figures as of March 2019
Mulindi and Shagasha provided our first experience of managing tea factories and will eventually be the first smallholder-owned tea factories in Rwanda.

In 2012 The Wood Foundation Africa, in partnership with the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, bought the majority shares in these two factories being privatised by the Government of Rwanda.

We have invested $12m in share capital and capex funding significantly modernising the factories and enhancing the agronomic skills and knowledge of the supplying farmers who already owned 40% of the equity.

When they achieve agreed KPIs on governance and management capability, and we recover our initial investment, the equity will be passed on to the smallholder farmers to give them 100% ownership.

We are currently working with the 13,000 smallholder farmer suppliers and have achieved very significant performance improvement.

- Additions to the factories include high-capacity dryers, cutting lines, automatic withering machines, transformer and alignment pre-sorters.
- Crop production from the two factories in 2018 was 26.95 tonnes of greenleaf – almost 25% of Rwanda’s tea output.
- Smallholder farmers’ income has more than trebled since 2012.
- 3000 permanent and contracted staff in the field and factory.
- Significantly broadening the market outlets beyond the Mombasa auction.
- Both factories are Rainforest Alliance and FSCC22000 certified.
- From previously having no annual farmer bonus paid, in 2018 the farmers received a bonus of $600,000 across the two factories.
1. NJOMBE, TANZANIA

The SCSD model was piloted at The Wood Foundation Africa’s greenfield site in Njombe, Tanzania with the establishment of the Njombe Outgrowers Services Company (NOSC) in 2015.

We currently hold the majority share in NOSC with the farmers holding 49%. They will eventually own 100%.

Our partners include Unilever who has invested $30m in a new factory and we have had excellent support from local and national governments and a new local cooperative has been established. DfID has provided helpful financial support.

The initial 2500Ha site is being developed to provide tea to the Unilever factory which will be majority smallholder-supplied. There will also be a 300Ha core estate.

In addition to providing the loan financing to the farmers, NOSC facilitates planting, agronomy, inputs, logistics, block management, marketing and certification.

- Farmers’ income increased at least threefold.
- 1000 Farmer Field School graduates per annum.
- Njombe has become the centre of the Tanzanian tea industry following this $48m transformational investment and is referred to as the Njombe Vision.
- The tea quality has been greatly enhanced with Unilever paying the farmers a premium price.

GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENTS

The Wood Foundation Africa is currently responsible for the development of four greenfield sites in areas of otherwise very limited economic potential. The acidic soil, which is suitable for tea growing but not for most other crops, meant that although smallholders were land rich, they were living in poverty with even sustenance farming proving a struggle to support often large families.

Our farmers are now planting tea in land owned by them but not previously successfully farmed.

SERVICES COMPANY SMALLHOLDER DEVELOPMENT MODEL

To provide the skills and agronomic support, we have established the Services Company Smallholder Development (SCSD) model.

Each greenfield development has its own SCSD company which employs experienced tea development management plus agronomists and other experts to advise on the planting, growing and marketing of the new tea.

The SCSD also provides seedlings and fertiliser and helps supervise the land preparation services with the project being financed by long-term, no-interest patient capital which amounts to approximately $20m per greenfield.

There are also very effective Farmer Field Schools. Once the bushes are mature, the services company provides production logistics such as weighing, transport and payment.
GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENTS

14,800Ha
New tea planting

18,000
Farmers to be engaged

4000
Completing Farmer Field Schools per annum

£220 million
Investment in greenfield sites

Figures as of March 2019
GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENTS

500% Potential increase in farmer income

300Ha New tea planting at each site per annum

£20 million Smallholder farmer investment per site

25 years All tea will reach commercial yield

Figures as of March 2019
2. KIBEHO-MUNINI, RWANDA

Kibeho-Munini in the south of the country was one of the areas hardest hit by the genocide with half of the population living below the poverty line.

The land in Southern Rwanda is very acidic but the good quality soil and altitude grows high-quality tea.

The Wood Foundation Africa is working with Unilever to develop 3400Ha of tea land for 6000 farmers to provide the majority of tea to the new Unilever factory. It is anticipated this will be built in 2021. There will also be a 800Ha core estate. We are adopting block farming where possible with up to 300Ha of tea being planted each year. The total investment will be $77m, including $22m of patient capital for the smallholder farmer development. DfID has given very helpful support.

From an uncertain start, there are a very large number of farmers now queuing up to develop their land and this could take between 10 and 15 years. The first farmers are already able to sell some of their tea. The quality is excellent and will get a premium price.

3. RUGABANO, RWANDA

The Karongi district, where the Rugabano greenfield site is being developed, had almost 70% underemployment. We are working with one of India’s pre-eminent tea companies, Luxmi, who is committed to opening its first factory in Africa in summer 2019. This will be majority supplied by the SCSD smallholder farmers.

The total investment will be $55m, including $22m of patient capital for the smallholder farmers who will be planting at a rate of between 250 and 300Ha per annum. DfID is again providing some financial help. There will also be a 400Ha core estate.

It is anticipated we will develop 4000Ha of smallholder tea for 6000 farmers and the smallholder farmer income will increase at least fivefold.

4. BUSANZE, RWANDA

Busanze is the most southern region of Rwanda, bordering on Burundi. The high altitude and acidic soil which makes it difficult to cultivate many crops are conducive to producing best-quality tea.

In 2019, planting will begin at the 3000Ha tea estate developed at 250 to 300Ha per annum for a second Unilever tea factory in Southern Rwanda. This will be supplied by 5000 smallholder farmers, again applying the SCSD model. There will also be a 400Ha core estate.

In this case, almost half of the smallholder farmer investment of $20m will come from a long-term loan from the Government of Rwanda.

It is anticipated the very significant benefits beginning to be achieved in the other greenfield developments will apply equally to Busanze. The economy of what is currently a very poor region in Rwanda will be significantly transformed, as well as the livelihoods of many thousands of farmers and their families.
PFUNDA AND GISOVU FACTORY ACQUISITION

The Wood Foundation Africa has partnered with Luxmi to acquire majority shares in two leading Rwandan tea factories, Pfunda and Gisovu. We hold a 25% share in this joint holding company and the total investment is $29m.

Our role will be to work with the smallholder farmers and their cooperatives to significantly improve the yield and quality of green leaf supplied to the factory while Luxmi will focus on manufacture and end market to maximise value from the inherent quality in these teas. Gisovu has the potential to produce some of the best black tea in Africa.

Through enhanced yield and a better green leaf price, alongside smallholder equity stakes in these businesses, the farmers and their families will enjoy a material increase in their incomes and quality of life.

CHAI AND IMBARUTSO

Our two industry-level programmes – Chai in Tanzania and Imbarutso in Rwanda – provide a range of technical assistance and support to the public and private sector addressing a variety of constraints in field, factory and end market.

Examples of our interventions include: regulatory support to develop the first market-based payment mechanisms; corporate governance training for farmer directors; national-level public-private sector extension officer development programme; land consolidation and titling for smallholder block farms; roll-out of mobile phone payment mechanisms for smallholder tea farmers; smallholder lease financing for mechanised harvesting machines; and development of a national tea growers’ handbook.
OUR KEY PARTNERS

GATSBY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
The Gatsby Charitable Foundation, one of Lord David Sainsbury’s charitable trusts, has partnered with us in most of our tea investments so far and clearly contributed to the success.

UK DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)
DFID has supported our first three greenfield developments through a co-funding model and also supported our Chai tea industry improvement initiative in Tanzania.

UNILEVER
Unilever is our partner in Njombe, Tanzania and in Kibeho-Munini and Busanze in Rwanda. Its investment in Kibeho-Munini is its first in Rwanda which produces among the world’s best tea. This will work well with the adjacent Busanze development. Unilever is offering our farmers premium prices for high-quality tea.

LUXMI
Luxmi, a pre-eminent Indian tea company, has Rugabano as its first investment in Africa and we have recently acquired two of the top factories in Rwanda in partnership with them. Luxmi is extremely enterprising and keen to look at innovative ideas and developments and offers our farmers a premium price for high quality tea.

GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA
The Government of Rwanda’s greenfield development strategy is committed to factories which are majority smallholder-supplied and it is providing some funding for the Busanze development.

PARTNERS

“Facilitating economic betterment and changing the make-up of a country’s key industry is a major undertaking.

“Establishing relationships with like-minded partners, including Government, is the only way to drive sustainable progress.

“Collaboration between private, philanthropic and public sectors has underpinned our successes to date in Rwanda and Tanzania and will allow the changes to become embedded within the economy for future generations.”

SIR IAN WOOD KT GBE
CHAIRMAN, THE WOOD FOUNDATION
We will continue to develop our very successful tea activities supporting smallholder farmers in East Africa and possibly look at one or two additional countries.

Based on our knowledge and experience of smallholder farmer development, we will look at one or possibly two other crops, applying the same SCSD model and greenfield development principles.

We will take more of a commercial line and be prepared to invest in established tea factories where we have the opportunity to significantly enhance the livelihoods of their smallholder farmer suppliers. We have just completed a deal which will enable us to do exactly that.

Through our Farmer Field Schools, we will encourage smallholder farmers to think and act like small businesses in terms of planning and investing ahead.

We will work with others in looking at climate change mitigation from the extremes of serious water flooding to drought and the need for irrigation.

We will continue to be innovative both commercially and technically in maximising the opportunity from East Africa’s huge agricultural potential.

We will work with co-investors who are prepared to pursue our approach – other like-minded venture philanthropists and leading private companies in the sectors we are working in – as well as with the local and national governments. We are creating very significant foreign direct investment and jobs.

Like the rest of the world, the East African climate is changing. More intense rainfall is increasing flooding, landslides and soil erosion.

Tea planting plays an important role in stabilising Rwanda’s hilly topography and reducing the levels of soil erosion but tea production is impacted by these weather events.

We are working with a number of the international climate change organisations to introduce measures to improve the water shed, reduce sedimentation and lessen the impact of heavy rainfall events downstream introducing irrigation where possible.

We now have a training module for smallholder farmers on minimising climate risks, recognising warnings for extreme events and developing the various skills of climate smart agriculture.
“We are not an NGO, we are a venture philanthropist using our business knowledge and skills to create sustainable long-term change and add huge value to smallholder farmers by helping them to help themselves. We are transforming livelihoods and regions.”

SIR IAN WOOD KT GBE
CHAIRMAN, THE WOOD FOUNDATION

IN CONCLUSION

TESTIMONIES

ELIE HAVUGIMA
“The bonus has been the best income to me because it allowed me to buy three cows. We used to spend long hours at green leaf buying centres but that is history since introduction of weighing machines which are fast and accurate. The Field Schools have trained me about tea production and good governance.”

FRANCOIS KAREKEZI
“I have extended my tea farm from 6 to 8Ha using tea income and free seedlings. The seedlings used to be very expensive in the past.”

BEATRICE MUBANGIZI
“I have a son attending university and I am able to pay fees for university education because of the assured tea income.”

PROTEGENE KAJEJE
“Through Farmer Field Schools I can confidently claim to have skills about agro-practices.”

XAVERINE MUKAGAHUTU
“When I was paid the bonus, I was able to plant 2Ha of eucalyptus which will give me an income when I sell the trees at maturity.”

ANASTASE BIHOYIKI
“My ‘little’ tea farms are now able to earn me 200,000 FRw monthly. This has enabled me to build a house worth 3,000,000 FRw.”

ELIE HAVUGIMA
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It is our collective responsibility as a society to ensure young people can realise their potential to make a positive contribution, both locally and globally.

We must ensure they are equipped with the skills and understanding to seize opportunities and forge pathways to become active global citizens, aware of their responsibilities and capacity to make positive contributions. We must support the creation of a connected and understanding future workforce able to make the world a better place.

Our experienced and dedicated team in the UK is focussed on developing young people in Scotland, providing opportunities for them to better engage with and understand society, as well as enhancing their educational prospects. This is done through a range of programmes and investments which address issues such as youth action and philanthropy, skills for learning, life and work, STEM education, global citizenship, child poverty, and general health and wellbeing.

As well as directly engaging with young people, we also provide professional and personal development opportunities for Scotland’s education practitioners. To empower future generations, we must invest in today’s teaching workforce. Inspired teachers inspire learners and generate impactful, sustainable change.

We are proud to have played a significant role in major economic projects in the North-east of Scotland which will be integral to the success of the region as it moves into its next commercial era.

It is impossible to put an exact figure on the number of lives The Wood Foundation’s intelligent, proactive and focussed venture philanthropic practices have impacted and, like ripples in a pond, this is our ambition. Real change is systemic; embedded in an empowered, progressive society whereby each and every person has a part to play in bettering and strengthening our collective future.
Real change is systemic; embedded in an empowered, progressive society.
Giving young people the opportunity and space to better understand the issues which affect their local community and providing meaningful opportunities for them to make a difference empowers their development as engaged, thoughtful and active citizens.

We should never underestimate the depth of understanding, maturity and confidence possessed by young people to address, and challenge, a whole range of difficult social issues.
The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) empowers young people to make a difference in their communities.

Through a unique programme of teamwork, research and competition, young people develop their education, employability and life skills, as well as learning to care about their communities and how they can meaningfully engage with social causes.

The winning team from each participating school secures a grant of £3000 for a local charity tackling the issue which they choose to support.

Introduced to Scotland by The Wood Foundation in 2008, it is now one of the biggest and most successful independent initiatives being delivered in Scottish education.

Suzy, an S4 pupil at Lenzie Academy, reached the YPI final representing eating disorder charity Beat.

The YPI experience truly transformed Suzy’s confidence. From being incredibly reserved at the start of the process, she has now presented to hundreds of adults and her peers and is set to be a health & wellbeing and anti-bullying mentor in her school.

“When I was first told about YPI, I wasn’t sure I could face being in the hall with all those people but I managed it. Then we were told about the presentations and I thought ‘that’s another thing I won’t be able to do’. I would never have believed I could speak in front of my class, never mind strangers at the final and definitely not at the events I’ve gone on to do since. My team was great and I don’t know if I would have managed this without their support. I’ve amazed myself.”

Emna Ben Hamou completed YPI as a pupil at James Gillespie High School, Edinburgh, in 2010.

Now as an RMPS teacher at Grangemouth High School, she has introduced the programme to her pupils as she believes it is an impactful way to empower and engage young people.

“YPI helped me develop a whole host of skills which have transferred into my adult life. It also opened my eyes to what was happening in my community and the power young people have to make a difference. It is our role as teachers to afford young people transformative opportunities such as YPI and I am delighted to be leading on it at my school.”

174,000
Empowered young people

250
Participating schools

£4 million
Granted to local social services charities in Scotland

80%
Students feel more confident

100%
Teachers say students’ employability skills increased

Figures from January 2008 to June 2019 (forecasted)
Global Learning Partnerships (GLP) is an authentic learning experience which challenges and empowers practitioners towards leadership in education and the effective teaching of global issues in the classroom through increased confidence, resilience and resourcefulness.

It is an 18-month professional and personal development programme enhancing the delivery of Learning for Sustainability in Scotland’s classrooms and includes a four-week placement in Rwanda or Uganda.

It has been developed in partnership with GTCS, GLP alumni and in-country partners Redearth Education Uganda and Inspire, Educate and Empower Rwanda.

Laura Gauld is a geography teacher at Peterhead Academy.

She joined the GLP programme in 2018 and spent the summer in Rwanda developing her confidence and skills while empowering educators in her host community.

Developing first-hand experience of another education system and life in another country has heavily impacted the teaching of her subject and she believes her pupils are benefitting from more meaningful, relatable lessons.

“Until you immerse yourself by living and working in a place, you cannot gain a real understanding into the lives of the people. This enhanced my learning and understanding and therefore the experience of my pupils and across the wider school. I have already changed the way I approach topics and the engagement from the pupils has been fantastic.”

Emie is in P3 at Cambusbarron Primary School.

Her class teacher Georgia Phillips took part in GLP in 2017 and has inspired Emie to think about issues in her community and in the wider world.

She began to notice litter in her town and the impact it had on animals which upset her. She was also aware of plastic pollution and decided to do a 65km cycle to raise funds for the ocean clean-up campaign. She says she now wants to be a vet to help animals and is planning another sponsored cycle.

“Our topic made me think how I could help the world. Plastic pollution is killing animals and we need more people to help look out for them.”
There has never been a greater need to develop young people’s understanding of their responsibility to make a difference and actively contribute towards a more equitable and sustainable world.

That is why we believe it is vital to invest in our education professionals. An empowered teacher will inspire potentially hundreds, if not thousands, of young minds towards lifelong responsible progress.
Enhancing the quality of STEM learning and teaching is imperative for Scotland’s future prosperity.

Inspiring an enthusiasm for science from a young age, engaging learners in real-life examples and showcasing pathways to employment while embedding the subject within interdisciplinary learning, ensures we are developing a motivated and able STEM workforce with the modern skills for the fourth industrial age.
Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAiSE) is a four-year pilot programme delivered in partnership with Education Scotland, Scottish Government and local authorities to develop the confidence, skills and networks of primary educators for the effective and impactful teaching of STEM subjects.

A total of 12 local authority areas have benefitted from the appointment of Primary Science Development Officers. The role involves delivering professional development events, signposting existing opportunities, aligning the subject with other improvement frameworks and priorities, creating community partnerships and developing science-focused networks.

Dr Gillian Brydson is Acting Director of Children, Young People and Lifelong Learning at Dumfries & Galloway Council.

The authority embarked upon the RAiSE pilot in August 2017. In the space of a year, its entire approach to STEM had been transformed.

Driving innovative practice and linking RAiSE with other educational priorities is putting STEM on the map in a rural authority.

“The RAiSE programme has very heavily influenced our teaching of STEM, as well as the wider primary curriculum. It has embedded a whole new mindset which is undoubtedly improving the experience of learners and helping us to create a workforce for the future.”

Nikki Wright, Principal Teacher at St. David’s Primary School, is one of the Primary Science Leaders developed by the RAiSE programme in Edinburgh.

She was keen to build teacher confidence in STEM in her school and to explore how it could support learning across other curricular areas.

“The professional learning offered by RAiSE provided great examples of engaging, simple STEM lessons. Not only could I share that in my classroom, but was able to empower other teachers in my school to do the same. I am delighted that I am able to support my colleagues and the school’s pupils are already reaping the benefits.”

Teachers have engaged
4442
Professional development hours
19,641
Learners enjoy science
88%
Learners believe it’s important to learn science
86%

Figures from August 2017 to December 2018
STV CHILDREN’S APPEAL

“The Wood Foundation’s ongoing support of the STV Children’s Appeal continues to empower change in the lives of children and young people affected by poverty in the North-east. In partnership with The Wood Foundation the Appeal has made a real difference by providing practical help like food and warm clothes, creating opportunities for training and employability, and offering social and emotional support for those who need it most.”

SIMON PITTS

RUSSELL ANDERSON FOUNDATION

“The Wood Foundation has empowered us to provide coaching opportunities to thousands of school children in Aberdeen. The team has also supported us in developing a professional and sustainable charitable framework.”

RUSSELL ANDERSON
ABERDEEN YOUTH GAMES

“The Wood Foundation’s support has empowered us to provide students and school pupils with inspirational experiences. Their support of the Aberdeen Youth Games is allowing us to create a legacy of physical activity, health and wellbeing in the city.”

DR BRYAN MCCANN

STEP

“The Wood Foundation’s support has empowered us to have a positive impact on the education of hundreds of children, as well as to deliver professional training opportunities to dozens of staff across Aberdeen.”

LUCINDA ROBERTS-HOLMES

NORTHSOUND CASH FOR KIDS

“The Wood Foundation has empowered us to address the stark issue of child poverty here in North-east Scotland. Its commitment to our Mission Christmas campaign has massively supported our efforts to ensure thousands of children wake up to a present on Christmas morning.”

MICHELLE FERGUSON
ONE is the private sector’s response in the North-east of Scotland to the challenge of maximising the oil and gas opportunity long-term.

There is a clear aim of rebalancing the local economy to achieve sustainable prosperity in the key sectors of oil, gas and energy; food, drink, agriculture and fishing; life sciences; tourism; and digital and entrepreneurship.

ONE’s sector-specific programmes of activity focus on innovation, internationalisation, digital transformation, business growth and transformational projects. It is the UK’s only private sector led and funded regional economic development body.

The regional economic renaissance vision requires planning, development and investment, and delivery at pace to stimulate, diversify and broaden our economy.

ONE is both a catalyst for new ideas and activity and a delivery agent. We are making things happen, and happen faster. This is vital for the North-east’s productivity, competitiveness and economic resilience now and in the future.

JENNIFER CRAW
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OF ONE
Attending hospital, whether as a patient or as a visitor, is very often a stressful situation. The lack of parking at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary was significantly increasing the strain felt by tens of thousands of North-east families.

There was also undue pressure on the many hundreds of dedicated medical and support teams who work tirelessly to provide care at Foresterhill.

We are very pleased that the new multi-storey car park has made an immeasurable difference, improving the overall experience for those visiting the hospital, without public funds being diverted from frontline services.

The Lady Helen Parking Centre provides an additional 1100 free parking spaces at the North-east of Scotland’s biggest and busiest medical hub.

The Wood Foundation committed the funds needed to design and build a fit-for-purpose parking facility so that NHS Grampian did not need to use vital, frontline health budgets to address this need.

£10.7 million
Investment in the project

1100
Additional spaces

This is truly an act of generosity that will help so many people, just at a time when they need it most. To be able to visit loved ones without the anxiety of finding a place to park sounds a little thing but take it from me, it’s not!”

ALISTAIR LAW
ABERDEEN

LADY HELEN WOOD
TRUSTEE OF THE WOOD FOUNDATION
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The Wood Foundation,
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