

**Location:** South Lanarkshire

# Lanark Men's Shed

**Impact:** Growing an Inclusive Economy



## Background

Lanark Men's Shed (LMS) is a Scottish Charity (registered in 2023) based in South Lanarkshire. Founded in October 2021, LMS has 36 members – known as 'shedders' and is one of over 200 Sheds in Scotland.

LMS itself seeks to provide a stress-free learning environment where members can share life skills through a variety of activities, such as woodworking and restoration projects, woodturning, laser engraving, and 3D printing.

It is located at New Lanark - the UNESCO World Heritage Site, moving to its new premises in October 2023. It is currently open three full days and one evening per week.

## What did the support from Accelerate help you achieve?

This support has involved developing a bespoke, rolling Strategic Business Plan, conducting an online survey of existing members, and building a new website.

The Strategic Plan was designed to consolidate LMS' current position and prepare it for its next phase of growth. LMS updates the Strategy year-on-year. The current strategic priorities are threefold: set up a website and donations platform, conduct a fundraising campaign with local businesses to help cover operating costs, and provide health and safety training for new members.

A key goal within the Strategic Plan was to undertake an anonymous online satisfaction survey of members to assess the impact that its activities have on members and highlight feedback for future activities. Findings were very positive, indicating a high level of satisfaction as well as a desire to use the skills and knowledge available within the membership to contribute towards LMS' longer-term sustainability.

The new website: LMS already generates a lot of interest and commissioned work via its active [Facebook page](#). However, it anticipates that the website will help promote the range of products available through its workshops, reaching a far wider audience.

One particular outcome of LMS' engagement with the Accelerate Programme has been to give it a more professional approach, both internally and externally. This has been important in dealings with potential funders and in promoting and selling its range of products.

## The economic and social impact of the Support

Through the support of the Accelerate Programme and its strong relationship with the [New Lanark Trust](#), LMS generated almost 50% of its own income during 2024, selling its products to visitors in the New Lanark Gift Shop and through sales within the local community.

Building on this relationship and marketing via the new website will allow LMS to become stronger and play a greater role in promoting the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of its members—a role of increasing importance due to Scotland's ageing population and with public services under greater and greater strain.

