



Meet the Buyer Dumfries & Galloway 2026

- 21 May 2026 – The Bridge, Dumfries
- www.sdpscotland.co.uk

Noemi Finetti, SDP Events and Marketing Graduate
noemi.finetti@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Supplier Development Programme

Meet the Buyer Dumfries & Galloway 2026

296

People registered



147

Attended on
the day



80

Unique Scottish
SME businesses
attended



18

Exhibitors in
attendance on the
day

Including Supplier Development Programme, Dumfries & Galloway Council, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, Ashleigh, Business Gateway, FSB, hub South West McLaughlin & Harvey, McTaggart Construction, Procast, Scotland Excel, Wheatley Group and more...

96%

of respondents
rated the event
as "excellent" or
'good'

93%

of respondents **rated
the exhibitors as
'excellent' or 'good'**

89%

of respondents
**rated the speakers
as 'excellent' or
'good'**



Suppliers said:

"This event was a good opportunity to discuss potential future opportunities, learn more about upcoming projects, and build relationships with local businesses and council representatives."

Overview

The Supplier Development Programme has published a report on Meet the Buyer Dumfries & Galloway, run in partnership with Dumfries & Galloway Council. The event was held on 21 May, at The Bridge, Dumfries.

This free event gave suppliers in Dumfries & Galloway access to buyers and decision makers from across the public and private sector, helping suppliers raise their profile as a business, and prepare for upcoming contract opportunities.

Supplier Registration and Attendance

In total, 296 suppliers had pre-registered interest on the SDP website for Meet the Buyer Dumfries & Galloway. There were 147 actual attendees on the day. 94 of those attendees represented 80 Scottish SME unique businesses. 58 (72.5%) of those SMEs in attendance were based in the Dumfries & Galloway area.



Buyer Exhibitions

The 18 exhibitors at the event included headline partners Dumfries & Galloway Council, as well as Ashleigh, Brakes (a Sysco Company), Business Gateway, Computacentre, Dumfries & Galloway College, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), hub South West, McLaughlin & Harvey, McTaggart Construction, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Dumfries & Galloway Social Work Services Strategic Planning & Transformation, Procast, Scotland Excel, Scottish Procurement Alliance (SPA), South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE), and Wheatley Group.



Survey Feedback

An online survey was distributed to all that attended Meet the Buyer Dumfries & Galloway. The survey was conducted over May and June 2026. 28 responses were received and 26 of these came from SME employees.

The survey highlighted

96% of respondents rated the event as 'excellent' or 'good'

93% of respondents rated the exhibitors as 'excellent' or 'good'

89% of respondents rated the speakers as 'excellent' or 'good'

82% of respondents said that they felt more capable of bidding for contracts after this event

82% said that they were more likely to bid for contracts after attending this event

Some comments from suppliers included:

- *"I found the event useful to make new contacts and network with suppliers and contractors from the area. It was a good opportunity to discuss potential future opportunities, learn more about upcoming projects, and build relationships with local businesses and council representatives."*
- *"It was good to have the opportunity to make connections and talk to people who are directly involved in the procurement process."*
- *"I enjoyed Viv Graiton's speaking session on collaborative commissioning."*
- *"There was a great mix of contractors, procurement professionals, council members and housing association representatives."*
- *"I appreciated the opportunity to speak directly to people within procurement teams, and I had insightful discussions throughout the day."*
- *"I liked being able to network with other suppliers and market players."*
- *"The presentations were what I enjoyed the most, especially hearing from both the council and the NHS."*

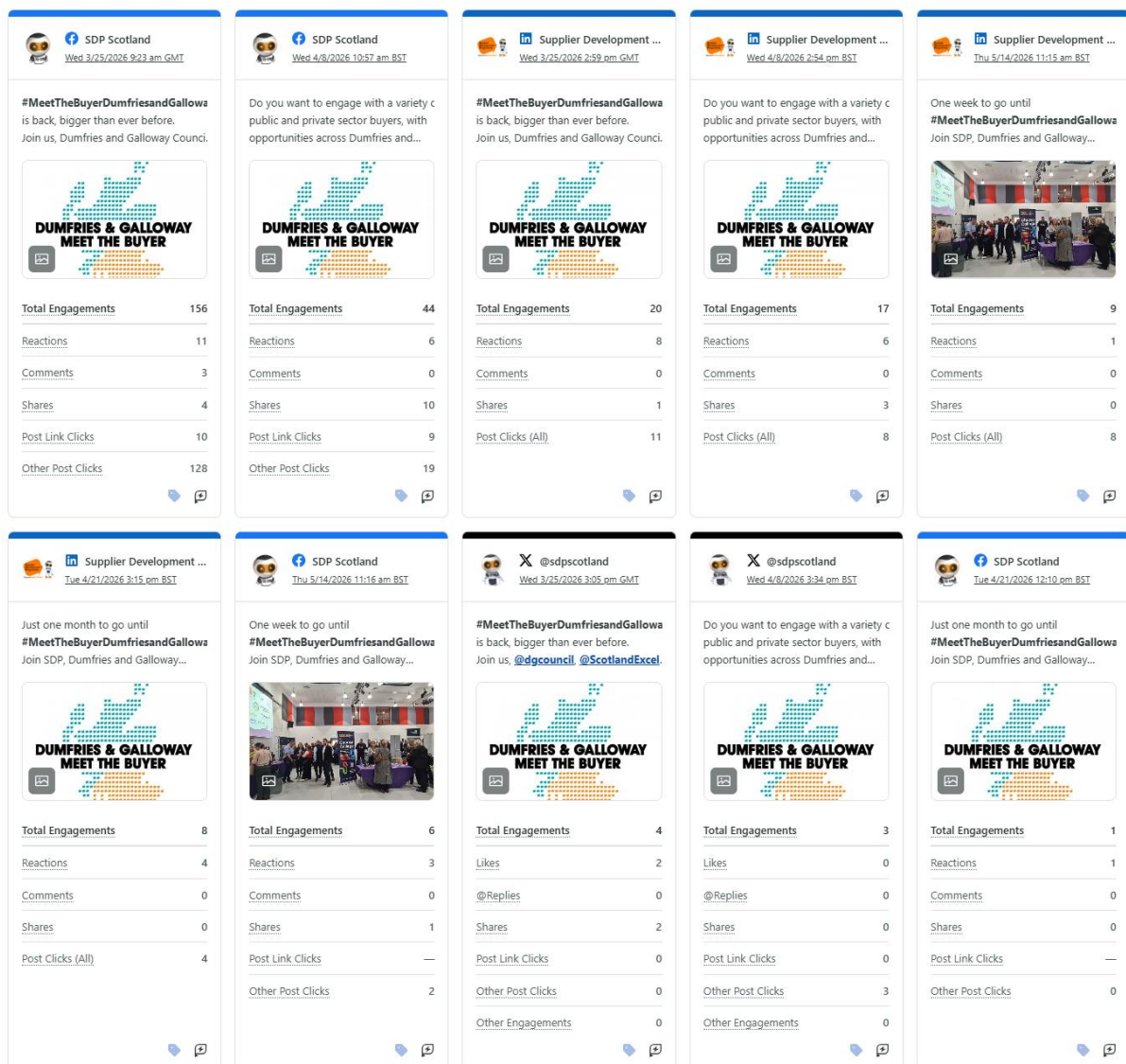
Post Event

Delegate feedback was reviewed and was overall positive. SDP considers all attendee comments when planning its future events.

Promotion through the Supplier Development Programme

Social Media

Prior to the event, from February to May 2026, SDP published 12 posts, across Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter (X), promoting Meet the Buyer Dumfries & Galloway. Collectively, the posts earned 11,687 impressions (the number of times users saw a post) and 268 engagements (the number of times users interacted with posts). In total, there were 50 clicks on the links embedded in these posts.



Newsletters/Mailings

Meet the Buyer Dumfries & Galloway was promoted in SDP's

- March 2026 newsletter, which received 208 click-throughs.
- April 2026 newsletter, which received 32 click-throughs.
- May 2026 newsletter, which received 390 click-throughs.

SDP also utilised a targeted approach to email marketing, sending out three solus emails about the event to all suppliers based in the Dumfries & Galloway region.

- 20 March 2026 solus email received 34 click-throughs
- 29 April 2026 solus email received 22 click-throughs
- 13 May 2026 solus email received 14 click-throughs

Contact

More information on the Supplier Development Programme can be found at www.sdpscotland.co.uk and on social media via [Twitter \(X\)](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).