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Free-to-use ATM goes live in Gartcosh

The Lanarkshire village of Gartcosh has a free to use cash machine thanks to an initiative aiming to restore free cash access across the UK.

Working with the local community, LINK, the UK's main ATM cash machine network, has today supported the switch of an existing charging machine to a free to use in the local convenience store, ShopLocal.

Gartcosh is the second location in Scotland to benefit from LINK's community request scheme. In December, Durness in the North West Highlands received a new free to use ATM.

The request was brought to LINK's attention by Isobel Kelly, chair of the local Tenants and Residents Association.

In October, LINK launched a new website allowing communities to request help directly from LINK for support for free access to cash. For requests for a free-to-use cash machine, if it meets the criteria which includes distance to nearest free ATM, availability of a Post Office, site security and that there is a suitable location, LINK will fund the new ATM directly. The website can be found at <https://www.link.co.uk/consumers/request-access-to-cash/>.

LINK, Head of Financial Inclusion, Nick Quin: *"Free cash access remains vital for communities and high streets across the country. Prior to today's news, residents could either pay £1.99 to use the charging machine or get to the nearest free to use ATM in Glenboig, which is over one mile away. Isobel Kelly and her husband were key in supporting us find the best location.*

"I am delighted the ATM is now free and we'd like to hear from more communities where cash access is a problem."

Fulton MacGregor, MSP, Coatbridge and Chryston: *'I'm delighted that Gartcosh will now have a free cash machine. As a thriving and distinct community, it's important that people can access their own money free of charge. I'm pleased that Link have responded to calls from myself and the community and found a solution to this issue.'*

The ATM is located at ShopLocal, Old Gartloch Road, G69 8EU.