FIRSTSITE LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1031800

Details

Other names	COLCHESTER AND DISTRICT VISUAL ARTS TRUST, 1STSITE, CADVAT, COLCHESTER AND DISTRICT VISUAL ARTS TRUST LTD, FIRSTSITE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02884347
Registered	1994-01-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Firstsite Lewis Gardens Colchester CO1 1JH
Phone	01206713711
Email	info@firstsite.uk
Website	www.firstsite.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE ARTS IN SOCIETY, IN PARTICULAR THE VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF COLCHESTER AND THE SURROUNDING AREA IN PARTICULAR AND EAST ANGLIA IN GENERAL BY DEVELOPING PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS AND BY IMPROVING ACCESS TO, AND THE QUALITY OF THE ARTS. [VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS SHALL BE DEFINED AS INCLUDING PAINTING, DRAWING, PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM VIDEO, SCULPTURE, THE CRAFTS OF POTTERY, WOODWORK, TEXTILES, PLASTIC, METAL WORK, PERFORMANCE AND CURRENT TECHNOLOGY FOR ARTS PURPOSES]

Activities: Provision of visual arts programme and activities

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Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** COLCHESTER AND THE SURROUNDING AREA IN PARTICULAR AND EAST A
- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,363,822	£2,363,916	£950,682	52
2024-03-31	£2,349,810	£2,193,240	£951,024	78
2023-03-31	£1,983,074	£2,424,701	£574,454	71
2022-03-31	£2,834,560	£2,450,441	£1,016,081	64
2021-03-31	£1,894,691	£1,631,494	£631,963	59

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Catherine Elizabeth Francis		2020-03-18
Diane Eleanor Leacock		2020-03-18
Guy Armitage		2015-09-23
Mark Frederick Lewis Durham		2019-07-31
Peter Tibber		2020-03-18
Richard Polom		2017-10-07
Rosie Harriet Millard		2019-01-30
Susan Pui San Lok		2020-03-18
Tim Field		2018-10-20

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FIRSTSITE LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1031800

Accounts

Charity registration number 1031800

Company registration number 2884347 (England and Wales)

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr T Field Ms R Millard OBE Ms C Francis Ms D Leacock Ms S Pui San Lok Mr P Tibber Mr A Garnett Mr D Rosenberg Cllr J Young Mr M Durham
Charity number	1031800
Company number	2884347
Registered office	Lewis Gardens High Street Colchester Essex CO1 1JH
Auditors	Streets Audit LLP c/o The Old Exchange 64 West Stockwell Street Colchester Essex CO1 1HE
Solicitors	Ellisons Headgate Court Head Street Colchester Essex CO1 1NP
Bankers	HSBC 26 High Street Colchester Essex CO1 1DG

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CCLA Investment Management Limited
COIF Charity Funds
80 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6DZ

Lloyds Bank
22 High Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1DU

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONTENTS

	Page
Chair's statement	1 - 2
Trustees report	3 - 9
Statement of Trustees responsibilities	10
Independent auditor's report	11 - 14
Consolidated Statement of financial activities	15 - 16
Consolidated Balance sheet	17 - 18
Charity Balance sheet	19 - 20
Consolidated statement of cash flows	21
Notes to the accounts	22 - 47

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

In summarising 2024-25, it is clear that Firstsite has consolidated and augmented its position as one of the leading contemporary art spaces in the country. I am extremely proud to be a Trustee of Firstsite, and to lead a terrific Board which helps and advises our director Sally Shaw and her first-rate team.

We have had a great year. We have shown some internationally famous artists, as well as created renewed interest in forgotten names, and heralded important new creatives. We have held tight to our finances, and our funders have been loyal and generous; I would like to thank, in particular, the Arts Council of England and our Relationship Manager - Dipak Mistry, who has spent so much time with us and given us so much support. I would also like to thank Colchester City Council and Essex County Council whose continued financial support is very much appreciated and welcome.

We must also warmly thank our individual supporters who stay with us through all weathers, offering not only financial support but also steadfast advice, experience and the reassurance of their continued partnership. In particular we acknowledge Sonia and Giles Coode-Adams as well as Jane Hindley and Trevor Fenwick. You are exemplary in your generosity.

We have been on national TV and in the papers: our shows have been reviewed extremely well, and the beautiful golden crescent that is our home has had three outings on BBC1 by way of Antiques Roadshow. Crowds of people came from across the UK to Firstsite, bringing their treasures to be valued and discussed, and as a result, Firstsite acquired legions of more supporters and fans. We also hosted a pre-election debate for Channel 4.

Our exhibitions this year have been typically diverse, inspiring and beautiful. The artist, traveller and bohemian creative Lucy Harwood had a long-awaited retrospective in the first half of 2024; her family were there at the opening, and were moved to tears to see their relative's beautiful, vibrant paintings displayed as they should be.

David Lock, another artist who has waited a long time, had a terrific show which was challenging, dramatic and beautiful all at once. Other highlights included Lunar Lullabies, celebrating Jane Taylor, a Colchester local who was the poet behind Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, YAK's show Gen Z Dreaming and the wonderful Avatars and Allianees, featuring the surrealist Leonora Carrington. This spring Elsa James, who has featured in many group shows at Firstsite, had her first solo show, called It Should Not Be Forgotten, an extremely relevant title from this important new voice.

As always, Firstsite has had children and young people busily making art, being noisy and dancing their way through the galleries as part of our award-winning Holiday Fun programme. We are proud and happy to support Holiday Fun and see it as a vital part of our mission. Most people who feel at home in art galleries do so having been introduced to them at a young age, and we know that thanks to Holiday Fun, hundreds of children will always feel welcome in contemporary art spaces.

Our late-night events at Firstsite have been terrific; we have altered our opening hours to reflect when people have time to come and use the facilities, and this has worked very well indeed. I would like to thank the staff of Firstsite for being so flexible and willing to adapt to these changes. Our cinema is booming and we now have two cafes which work extremely well in tandem. Anyone who has eaten at Firstsite recently will attest to the brilliant new menus and delicious food now regularly available.

I would like to use this foreword to say farewell and thanks to two people whose work and time has been vital to Firstsite's continued success.

Firstly earlier this year we said goodbye to our wonderful deputy Chair Richard Polom, who served on the Board of Firstsite for many years, and who also looked after the Finance Committee with great diligence and creativity. We will all miss his good-natured eagle eye over the board papers!

Secondly, we also bid farewell to Sarah Caven-Atack who served in many roles at Firstsite, but was latterly our Chief Operating Officer. Sarah's professionalism and dedication to Firstsite was awesome. The lighting rig she installed across the gallery - which not only shows the art off beautifully, but will save us thousands of pounds in energy bills - is a lasting legacy to her careful and diligent manner.

I would also like to thank the entire Board, who have worked so hard this year to help Firstsite navigate through the choppy waters of energy costs, culture wars and a new commercial focus.

The Board is a group of extremely motivated, focused professionals with a spectacular range of skills, all of which are given without pay or fanfare, to help Firstsite be what it is. The time and advice they give so freely is remarkable, and I am extremely grateful to work alongside them.

Finally, I must herald Sally Shaw. She is an inspiring and dedicated director whose leadership of Firstsite is remarkable. We, and the city of Colchester are lucky to have her, and I would like to thank her for her vision and sense of mission which comes beaming out of our wonderful building every single day.

Ms Rosie Millard OBE

Chair

Date: 2 October 2025

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the group's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's object and its principal activity is to promote the arts in society, in particular the visual and media arts, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Colchester in particular and the surrounding area in East Anglia in general by developing public appreciation of the arts and by improving public access to and the quality of the arts. The organisation is a national leader in commissioning contemporary art, exhibiting it in the organisation's building and providing innovative new learning opportunities for the public to understand and appreciate new and existing art.

The charity's objective is to increase its reach into the community with a programme of exhibited artwork and associated learning activities. The strategy for the artistic programme is to exhibit artwork that includes new art tha: engages with a broad audience, show work from established artists and to produce innovative exhibitions. The learning programme's aims are to find appropriate and interesting ways to engage with hard to reach sections of the community, attract school visits to exhibitions and artist led workshops and to encourage more members of the community to participate in creative activity.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the group should undertake.

In deciding the charity's work over the course of the year the Trustees have complied with the duty in s17 Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The year 2024/25 has been one of the most challenging in Firstsite's recent history. Rising costs, an increasingly fragile fundraising environment, and ongoing uncertainty across the cultural sector have placed significant pressure on our organization, our artistic programme and on the communities we serve. Yet, in the face of these challenges, Firstsite has continued to deliver its mission: to make art matter and to demonstrate the essential role of creativity in building a happy, healthy, and resilient society.

This year has reinforced the vital importance of the partnerships and supporters who stand alongside us. Their commitment - from funders and councils to individual patrons, artists, and community groups - has been the foundation of our resilience. Thanks to them, Firstsite has continued to offer world-class art and meaningful community programmes, free and accessible to all. We would like to share our particular thanks to Sonia and Giles Coode-Adams and Jane Hindley and Trevor Fenwick who support us as donors to the charity and as mentors and advisors to our Director and teams on so many matters of impact for the gallery.

We would also like to thank several individuals from our primary funders – Dipak Mistry from Arts Council England is our relationship manager and his support is exemplary. Claire Taylor, Lucie Breadman and David King of Colchester City Council have been stalwarts in our collaborative work to sell 15 Queen Street at a time of great need for the gallery. Lastly Cllr Mark Durham of Essex County Council, has moved mountains to ensure ongoing support for us through a very stressful period.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

Artistic Programme – Radical and Outstanding Exhibitions

Despite financial and operational constraints, Firstsite delivered an ambitious and nationally significant programme of exhibitions. Highlights included:

- Elsa James. It Should Note Be Forgotten, an immersive installation in which large-scale photographic portraits of the artist covered our floor, like the laden hold of a vast and deathly ship, surrounded by neons quoting Maya Anjelou and David Lammy. Alongside we presented a series of blood red prints responding to the diaries of the slaver Thomas Thistlewood. Elsa also worked in residence in the galleries, and produced a new series of collages which are raw, energetic and full of enraged power and fluency, depicting members of her family conjoined with ancient objects, okra and blood splatters

- Claire Cansick. You and I are Earth was another highlight. This small-scale exhibition presented an incredible group of highly dexterous paintings. Each work is approximately the size of a desktop PC screen. They depict in careful and devastating detail, scenes of natural disasters from around the world, produced from screengrabs from news articles. The works explore our anaesthetised and distanced experience of real-world and global disasters. Often, only experienced as pixelated tableaus that do not directly affect us in our sheltered existences. However, en masse the 52 works begin to create the sense of emergency, perhaps we need to feel more of the heat of to prioritise this vast and existential crisis.

- Leonora Carrington. Avatars and Alliances was also an exceptional feat of curatorial enquiry. I would like to thank my colleague George Morl who is emerging as a significant talent and visionary convener of exhibitions and a wonderful artist in his own right. This important exhibition enabled Firstsite to make links with a significant artist experiencing a renewed interest after her death, as the anniversary of the surrealist manifesto is celebrated. The exhibition made sensitive links to Carringtons early education in Chelmsford and her living experience as a woman navigating neurodiversity in a world where this was not recognised.

Community and Participation – Bringing People Together

Our engagement and learning programmes remained a cornerstone of Firstsite's impact. The award-winning Holiday Fun programme continued to provide thousands of free hot meals, alongside creative and physical activities, for families most affected by the cost-of-living crisis. This work has become a lifeline for many and a model now adopted by other organisations nationally.

Overall, Firstsite welcomed 122,248 visitors onsite, with a further 108,299 engaging online – which was almost double the previous year. Holiday Fun provided 4,661 meals to 627 families. Firstsite hosted 63 schools visits, engaging 2011 pupils through artist-led workshops and tours.

The year also saw a broadening of our public offer:

- MiniClip, a free weekly music club for young people. Toddler groups, drawing workshops, and family sessions.

- Boozy Brushes and the Late Lounge series, bringing new audiences and energy into the building.

- Continued growth of the cinema, strengthened by the launch of the Mosaic Membership, which welcomed 150 members in its first year.

Case Study – Holiday Fun

People, Diversity and Inclusion
Firstsite has maintained a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, with more than half of our exhibitions authored by women, people from global majority backgrounds, and LGBTQI+ artists. The Young Artist Kommunity (YAK) continued to flourish, co-curating the exhibition Zero Contract: Zero Contact, which challenged ideas around labour, identity, and value from a youth perspective.

A total of 150 people contributed to Firstsite's work this year, including 25 permanent staff, 30 freelancers, and 72 volunteers. Our staff and volunteer teams once again showed resilience, dedication, and creativity in ensuring Firstsite remained welcoming and dynamic. We also expanded partnerships with community groups, including Refugee and Migrant Action Colchester, African Families in the UK, and the Bangladeshi Women's Association, ensuring that our programmes remain shaped by and relevant to our communities.

Partnerships and Support
Firstsite's achievements this year would not have been possible without the support of our funders and partners. We are deeply grateful to Arts Council England, Essex County Council, and Colchester City Council for their continued investment in our mission. We also thank the Art Fund, the Big Give donors who helped us raise a total of £65,018, Sonia and Giles Coode-Adams, Trevor Fenwick and Jane Hindley, the Collectors' Group, and many individual patrons for their generosity and belief in our work.

Resilience and Looking Ahead
The financial climate of 2024/25 has tested Firstsite more than any year since the pandemic. Audience caution, rising energy and operating costs, and pressure on philanthropy have created real challenges. Through careful stewardship and the responsible use of reserves, we have continued to deliver free exhibitions and essential creative programmes without compromising on quality or ambition.

The strength of our governance and leadership has been a crucial factor. Major infrastructure improvements, such as the gallery-wide lighting project, have secured long-term efficiency and enhanced the visitor experience. The dedication of our staff and volunteers has ensured that Firstsite remains a place of welcome, creativity, and inspiration.

Looking ahead, our priorities for 2025/26 are clear:

- Strengthening financial sustainability through new income streams and partnerships.
- Continuing to champion creativity as a daily, essential part of people's lives.
- Deepening our role as both a gallery of national significance and also a home for many visitors and community groups in which to express and share their own creativity.

My sincere thanks go to the entire team for their inspiring and exceptional commitment through adversity, as well as to the Firstsite Board of Trustees who's stewardship of this amazing gallery has been steadfast and enduring in the face of some very testing times. While the year has been difficult, the support we have received and the achievements we have delivered demonstrate that Firstsite is resilient, relevant, and ready for the future.

Financial review

The trustees have continued to put into operation its risk management strategy and reserves policy that are in line with its business planning for the full operation of its charitable objectives. It is the aim of the trustees to work towards having unrestricted reserves that will cover at least 3 months of expenciture.

2024/25 saw funding reduced as philanthropic organisations re-evaluate their priorities in light of the national and international economic pressures. The accumulated consolidated surplus in the unrestricted fund account as of 31 March 2025 was £599,549 (2023/24 £254,083) and there were restricted funds of £351,133 (2023/24 £696,692). There was a transfer of £755,064 to move the balance relating to an Arts Council England Grant to improve the lighting infrastructure within the Firstsite building.

Income from restricted activity increased by £88,323 to £617,714 (2023/24 £529,391) This funding was used to support programmes, such as Holicay Fun and our Young Art Kommunity (YAK).

The trading activities of the group are carried out by Firstsite Enterprises Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary, whose results are included in these consolidated financial statements. The trading activity reduced in revenue by £5,841to £527,518 (2023/24 £533,359). As cost and margins continue to come under pressure the Trustees have put in place several KPI's that monitor performance against targets and enable any corrective action to be taken if required.

Reserves policy

Income from both unrestricted and restricted sources increased from the prior year by £36,306 to £1,829,474. (2023/24 £1,793,168) The majority of this increase can be accounted for by the previously mentioned award of funds to upgrade the lighting systems. Generally speaking, the fund raising environment continues to be tough.

Total resources expended increased by £88,178 to £1,740,841 (2023/24 £1,652,663), mainly as a result of increased costs of charitable activities of £101,315 from the previous year and a slight decrease in activity associated with Restricted Projects of £13,137 The increases are reflective of the 12-month trading period during the year and price rises generally.

Tangible net fixed assets increased by £336,714 to £1,231,704 (2023/24 £894,990) This movement in assets mainly reflects capitalisation of new lighting (£389,537) less the depreciation charge based upon the Charity's accounting policies.

Debtors of £204,747 (2023/24 £239,980) includes for £122,179 (2023/24 £106,237) in respect of Exhibition Tax Relief. This claim has been submitted and should be received by the end of November 25.

Creditors £495,561 (2023/24 £277,435) includes deferred income of £207,379 this relates to the Arts Council England grant received in March 2025 for core cost. The grant was received early and relates to performance conditions to be met in April 2025. In addition, there are specific accruals and trade creditors of £223,333 (2023/24 £206,571)

The trustees have formed a judgement, at the time of approving the financial statements, that based upon funding secured and actions being taken to respond the financial impact of the cost-of-living crisis the group will continue its activities for the foreseeable future and remains a going concern.

Our thanks go to Arts Council England, Colchester City Council, Essex County Council, Art Fund, Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust, Jane Hindley and Trevor Fenwick, Ampersand, Hervey Benham Trust, Colchester Rotary Club, Waitrose and our many other individual supporters.

Major risks

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In addition, the Trustees consider other risks to the continuance of Firstsite as an artistic learning and viewing venue. The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, include the financial position and facilities available, have been reviewed and a system has been established to mitigate those risks. The Trustees continue to work closely with the major sponsors of Firstsite to ensure common objectives and activities are achieved to ensure continued support.

Structure, governance and management

The group is a company limited by guarantee.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr G C Armitage	(Resigned 26 May 2025)
Mr T Field	
Ms R Millard OBE	
Mr R A Polom	(Resigned 21 November 2024)
Ms C Francis	
Ms D Leacock	
Ms S Pui San Lok	
Mr P Tibber	
Mr A Garnett	
Mr J Harvey	(Resigned 3 June 2024)
Mr D Rosenberg	
Cllr J Young	

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited via an agreed procedure:

1. Establish and agree the competencies required;
2. Advertise the positions via Firstsite's website and other appropriate media and invite other applicants;
3. Carry out a paper short-listing exercise comparing experience and qualifications etc., against the preferred criteria;
4. Carry out structured, competency-based interviews with members of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee and the Chair of the Managing Board and score the evidence against the pre-determined rating scale. Follow up with competency based references;
5. Arrange a meeting of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee to decide on the successful candidates;
6. Put forward the names of successful candidates to a meeting of the Board of Trustees for formal approval.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees undergo a period of training to brief them on their legal obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees meets at least quarterly to review the policy, strategy and medium and long term planning needs of the organisation.

The Finance and Enterprise Committee meets regularly with the Finance Director and Director to ensure that the organisation is focused on the Business Plan priorities whilst managing risks proactively.

A Company Secretary role is appointed from amongst the Trustees to help continually develop our governance arrangements ensuring we adhere to best practice. Firstsite has also appointed a Vice Chair to take on duties and responsibilities in the absence of the Chair.

The Board of Trustees delegate day-to-day management to the Director, Ms S Shaw. Please note that Ms S Shaw is not a formal Director at Companies House.

Relationship with wider network

Firstsite has a close relationship with Arts Council of England, which is a charity, Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council, all of which provide funding to enable Firstsite to carry out its charitable objectives. Firstsite is also an active member of the +Tate network and the Contemporary Visual Arts Network, contributing to sector-wide strategic projects that support increased access to art and culture across the UK.

Relationship with related parties

Firstsite Enterprises Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary company and operates the commercial aspect of the organisation which includes a number of elements. 15 Queen Street offers a creative hub for local small and new businesses. At the year-end, there were five resident members with creative skills ranging from illustration, crafts and marketing with a mix of charity, and social enterprise status.

The other activities that comprise those of Firstsite Enterprises Limited include managing the hire of spaces in Firstsite's building and organising events, conferences and meetings; the provision of a permanent café in the building which is open for food and drink 7 days a week; the provision of a shop selling art related items that includes locally produced artwork and craft. The operation of the auditorium which is used to screen live performances and with the partnership with Curzon Cinemas, a full film programme. In addition, there are a number of related talks and debates which are on offer to the public.

The commercial activity produced an income that allows Firstsite to show informative and interesting art exhibitions as well as the provision of educational workshops and classes that are free to attend or are offered at a subsidy.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Streets Audit LLP be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Ms R Millard OBE
Trustee

2 October 2025

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Firstsite Limited for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIRSTSITE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Firstsite Limited (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated and parent company balance sheets, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable group and company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the directors' report included within the Trustees report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the Trustees report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the group for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

The audit tests, including planning procedures, adopted for the audit of these financial statements are designed to assess and detect the risk of irregularities, including fraud. Our risk assessment of the likelihood of irregularities included the high degree of involvement of the experienced directors, which reduces the risk of irregularities. The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the group through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the Companies Act 2006 Charities Act 2011, taxation legislation, Employment Law and Data Protection.

We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence. These were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We identified the greatest potential for fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations in the following areas, and the specific procedures performed to address them are described below:

- We obtained an understanding of the income process and the flow of financial information to the general ledger and how this is classified as restricted and unrestricted.

- Cut-off testing was performed at the year-end date by reviewing revenue which had be accrued for and revenue that had been recognised after date to identify any transaction which had been erroneously recognised in the incorrect period. The same testing was carried out for expenditure.

- In line with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we reviewed accounting records for any unusual adjustments.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risk identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risk of material misstatement due to fraud;

- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance for the year.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIRSTSITE LIMITED

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable group's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable groups' members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable group and the charitable group's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Greene BSc FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Streets Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
c/o The Old Exchange
64 West Stockwell Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1HE
21 October 2025

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	1,062,087	568,874	1,630,961	1,119,920	452,121	1,572,041
Charitable activities							
Artistic programme	5	26,728	47,216	73,944	-	44,480	44,480
Learning & education	5	-	1,624	1,624	4,656	32,790	37,446
Investments	4	6,834	-	6,834	23,530	-	23,530
Other income	7	650,459	-	650,459	672,315	-	672,315
Total income		1,746,108	617,714	2,363,822	1,820,421	529,391	2,349,812
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds							
Costs of generating voluntary income	6	15,508	-	15,508	28,645	-	28,645
Trading costs	6	560,371	-	560,371	502,108	-	502,108
		575,879	-	575,879	530,753	-	530,753
Charitable activities							
Learning & education	8	420,958	73,009	493,967	544,783	80,319	625,102
Artistic programme	8	1,158,870	135,200	1,294,070	972,014	65,375	1,037,389
Total charitable expenditure		1,579,828	208,209	1,788,037	1,516,797	145,694	1,662,491
Total resources expended		2,155,707	208,209	2,363,916	2,047,550	145,694	2,193,244
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	-	-	-	220,000	-	220,000

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	(409,599)	409,505	(94)	(7,129)	383,697	376,568
Gross transfers between funds	755,064	(755,064)	-	2,700	(2,700)	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds	345,465	(345,559)	(94)	(4,429)	380,997	376,568
Fund balances at 1 April 2024	254,084	696,692	950,776	258,512	315,695	574,207
Fund balances at 31 March 2025	599,549	351,133	950,682	254,083	696,692	950,775

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**18**		811,914		432,761
Heritage assets	**17**		36,240		79,400
Investment properties	**19**		395,000		395,000
			1,243,154		907,161
Current assets					
Stocks	**22**	31,693		37,005	
Debtors	**24**	219,919		264,927	
Cash at bank and in hand		52,672		72,993	
		304,284		374,925	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**25**	(591,756)		(316,311)	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			(287,472)		58,614
Total assets less current liabilities			955,682		965,775
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**26**		(5,000)		(15,000)
Net assets			950,682		950,775
Income funds					
General restricted funds		286,613		632,172	
Revaluation reserve		64,520		64,520	
	32		351,133		696,692
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	**31**	61,128		61,128	
General unrestricted funds		538,421		192,955	
			599,549		254,083
			950,682		950,775

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 2 October 2025

Ms R Millard OBE
Trustee

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£

Company Registration No. 2884347

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**18**		800,364		420,490
Heritage assets	**17**		36,240		79,400
Investment properties	**19**		395,000		395,000
Investments	**20**		100		100
			1,231,704		894,990
Current assets					
Debtors	**24**	204,747		239,980	
Cash at bank and in hand		45,403		50,125	
		250,150		290,105	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**25**	(495,561)		(277,435)	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			(245,411)		12,670
Total assets less current liabilities			986,293		907,660
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**26**		(5,000)		(15,000)
Net assets			981,293		892,660
Income funds					
General restricted funds		351,133		696,692	
Restricted funds	**32**		351,133		696,692
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	**31**	61,128		61,128	
General unrestricted funds		569,032		134,840	
			630,160		195,968
			981,293		892,660

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 2 October 2025 and are signed on its behalf by:

Ms R Millard OBE

Trustee

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£

Company Registration No. 2884347

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**38**		420,908		262,507
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(438,064)		(381,154)	
Investment income received		6,835		246	
Net cash used in investing activities			(431,229)		(380,908)
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		(10,000)		(10,000)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(10,000)		(10,000)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(20,321)		(128,401)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			72,993		201,394
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			52,672		72,993

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Firstsite Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JH.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the group's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The group is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the group. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the group is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the group has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

The charity occupies a Council funded building within Colchester for a peppercorn rent. It has not been possible to ascertain an accurate market rate for inclusion in the financial statements due to the specialist nature of the building provided.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Income from grants is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

- when donors specify that grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods;
- when donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the preconditions have been met;
- when donors specify that grants are for restricted purposes which do not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

Where the costs of charitable activities cannot be directly attributed to a charitable activity they are allocated proportionally between the artistic programme 73% (2024: 63%) and learning and education 27% (2024: 37%).

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant, equipment & auditorium	33.3% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Gallery equipment & IT	25% straight line
Office IT	25% straight line
Auditorium	20 % straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Heritage assets consist of previously donated art. These assets are not depreciated as the value is not considered to diminish.

1.7 Investment property

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the SOFA.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Financial instruments

The group has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. A specific provision is made for debts for which recoverability is in doubt.

Cash at bank and in hand is defined as all cash held in instant access bank accounts and used as working capital. Investments, including those in subsidiary undertakings are held at fair value at the balance sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise all creditors except social security and other taxes, deferred income and provisions.

1.11 Taxation

Firstsite is an exempt charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011 and as such is a charity within the meaning of Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010. Accordingly, Firstsite is partially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within the categories by Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to its charitable purposes.

Firstsite received no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax. Firstsite is a partially exempt organisation for VAT purposes and consequently input tax on its purchases are not fully recoverable.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.14 Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the charitable company and its subsidiary. As a consolidated statement of financial activities is published, a separate statement of financial activities for the parent company is omitted from the group financial statements by virtue of section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements

Depreciation

The main accounting estimate requiring significant judgement surrounds the depreciation policy applied to the group's fixed assets. This judgement requires management to determine the estimated useful life of assets and asset classes in order to calculate an appropriate rate of depreciation. Due to the specialised nature of some of these assets, this increases the judgement required.

Heritage assets

The group owns heritage assets consisting of donated artwork. As these assets are unique and specialised, they require judgement to be applied to ensure they are included at an appropriate value.

Investment property

The group owns an investment property which is rented out to tenants to generate income. This was valued in 2020 by an independent professional valuer. There is judgement required by management to determine whether the condition of the property has changed sufficiently since the date of the last valuation to require an updated valuation to be obtained.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	**2025**	**2025**	2024	2024	2024
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	35,572	-	35,572	93,405	452,121	545,526
Grants	1,026,515	568,874	1,595,389	1,026,515	-	1,026,515
	1,062,087	568,874	1,630,961	1,119,920	452,121	1,572,041
Grants receivable for core activities						
Other	1,026,515	568,874	1,595,389	1,026,515	-	1,026,515
	1,026,515	568,874	1,595,389	1,026,515	-	1,026,515

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025	**Unrestricted funds 2024**
	£	**£**
Rental income	6,830	23,284
Interest receivable	4	246
	6,834	23,530

5 Charitable activities

	Learning & education	Artistic programme	Total	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	73,944	1,624	75,568	81,926
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	26,728	-	26,728	
Restricted funds	47,216	1,624	48,840	
	73,944	1,624	75,568	
For the year ended 31 March 2024				
Unrestricted funds	-	4,656		4,656
Restricted funds	44,480	32,790		77,270
	44,480	37,446		81,926

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity		
Staff costs	15,508	28,645
Trading costs		
Operating trading company	560,371	502,108
Total costs	575,879	530,753

7 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Other income	650,194	672,315
Auditorium programme	265	-
	650,459	672,315

8 Charitable activities

	Learning & education 2025 £	Artistic programme 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	57,707	216,607	274,314	393,179
Depreciation and impairment	-	43,160	43,160	-
Direct costs	103,781	135,378	239,159	213,570
	161,488	395,145	556,633	606,749
Share of support costs (see note 9)	303,055	819,369	1,122,424	1,000,651
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	29,424	79,556	108,980	55,091
	493,967	1,294,070	1,788,037	1,662,491
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	420,958	1,158,870	1,579,828	1,516,797
Restricted funds	73,009	135,200	208,209	145,694
	493,967	1,294,070	1,788,037	1,662,491
For the year ended 31 March 2024				
Unrestricted funds	544,783	972,014		1,516,797
Restricted funds	80,319	65,375		145,694
	625,102	1,037,389		1,662,491

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	528,519	438,395
Depreciation	58,911	41,218
Office costs	6,486	11,101
Insurance	42,836	39,644
Communications	26,299	36,964
Recruitment and training	38,682	-
Utilities	227,238	276,818
Building costs	131,590	153,993
Computer and telecom	43,543	880
Licences and susbscriptions	18,321	1,639
Governance costs	108,979	55,090
	1,231,404	1,055,742
Analysed between:		
Artistic prgramme	332,479	395,444
Learning and development	898,925	660,298
	1,231,404	1,055,742

10 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	16,143	14,033
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	58,911	36,037

11 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, but one of them was reimbursed a total of £538 travelling expenses (2024: one was reimbursed £270).

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Directors	11	12
General	57	66
Total	68	78

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	718,051	774,622
Social security costs	68,607	58,444
Other pension costs	31,683	27,153
	818,341	860,219

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	178,103	188,780

13 Auditor's remuneration

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

Fees payable to the group's auditors and associates:	2025 £	2024 £
Audit of the groups annual accounts	16,143	14,033

14 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

15 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2025	2024
	£	£
Revaluation of investment properties	-	220,000

16 Profit/(Loss) of Parent Company

As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, the profit and loss account of the parent company is not presented as part of these financial statements. The parent company's surplus was £88,633 (2024: £360,505).

17 Heritage assets

Group and Charity

	2018
	£
At 1 April 2024	79,400
Impairments	(43,160)
At 1 April 2024 and at 31 March 2025	36,240

The heritage assets are currently valued in line with the amount the assets are likely to sell for. The assets were revalued to this value in the year.

18 Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Plant, equipment & auditorium	Fixtures and fittings	Gallery equipment & IT	Office IT	Auditorium	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 April 2024	170,261	641,252	417,240	48,708	185,611	1,463,072
Additions	5,734	423,060	5,576	-	3,694	438,064
At 31 March 2025	175,995	1,064,312	422,816	48,708	189,305	1,901,136
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 April 2024	157,990	368,149	399,769	48,708	55,695	1,030,311
Depreciation charged in the year	6,455	18,004	10,772	-	23,680	58,911
At 31 March 2025	164,445	386,153	410,541	48,708	79,375	1,089,222
Carrying amount						
At 31 March 2025	11,550	678,159	12,275	-	109,930	811,914
At 31 March 2024	12,271	273,103	21,482	-	129,916	432,761

18 Tangible fixed assets **(Continued)**

Charity

	Plant, equipment & auditorium	Fixtures and fittings	Gallery equipment & IT	Office IT	Auditorium	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 April 2024	137,494	641,252	417,240	48,708	185,611	1,430,305
Additions	-	423,060	5,576	-	3,694	432,330
At 31 March 2025	137,494	1,064,312	422,816	48,708	189,305	1,862,635
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 April 2024	137,494	368,149	399,769	48,708	55,695	1,009,815
Depreciation charged in the year	-	18,004	10,772	-	23,680	52,456
At 31 March 2025	137,494	386,153	410,541	48,708	79,375	1,062,271
Carrying amount						
At 31 March 2025	-	678,159	12,275	-	109,930	800,364
At 31 March 2024	-	273,103	17,471	-	129,916	420,490

19 Investment property

Group and charity

	2025
	£
Fair value	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	395,000

Investment property comprises the long leasehold of 15 Queen Street, Colchester until the year 2160. Lloyds Bank PLC have a registered charge over the property.

The fair value of the investment property has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out on 11 February 2020 by Morley Riches & Ablewhite Chartered Surveyors, who are not connected with the group. The valuation was made on an open market value basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties. The Board of Trustees consider that the market value of the property is not materially different to that stated above.

20 Fixed asset investments

Charity

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Investments in subsidiaries	21	100	100

21 Subsidiaries

Separate company financial statements are required to be prepared by law. Consolidated financial statements for the Firstsite Limited Group are prepared and publicly available.

Details of the group's subsidiaries at 31 March 2025 are as follows:

Name of undertaking and country of incorporation or residency		Nature of business	Class of shareholding	% Held Direct
Firstsite Enterprises Limited	United Kingdom	Trading arm of charity	Ordinary	100.00

22 Stocks

	2025	2024
	£	£
Shop stock	27,725	30,765
Bar and cafe stock	3,968	6,240
	31,693	37,005

23 Financial instruments

Group	**2025**	**2024**
	£	**£**
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	135,259	155,047
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at fair value through profit or loss		
Measured at amortised cost	345,772	303,593

Financial instruments		
Charity	**2025**	**2024**
	£	**£**
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	263,422	166,663
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	203,120	263,389

24 Debtors

Group		
	2025	**2024**
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Trade debtors	5,233	17,082
Other debtors	194,064	137,965
Prepayments and accrued income	20,622	109,880
	219,919	264,927

Debtors		
Charity		
	2025	**2024**
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Trade debtors	940	8,195
Other debtors	189,342	137,451
Prepayments and accrued income	14,465	94,334
	204,747	239,980

25 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Group

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	27	10,000	10,000
Other taxation and social security		25,832	27,718
Deferred income	28	225,152	-
Trade creditors		194,041	112,877
Other creditors		11,236	11,965
Accruals and deferred income		125,495	153,751
		591,756	316,311

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Charity

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	27	10,000	10,000
Other taxation and social security		25,832	27,718
Deferred income	28	225,152	-
Trade creditors		145,156	66,625
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings		8	21,181
Other creditors		11,236	11,965
Accruals		78,177	139,946
		495,561	277,435

26 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

Group and charity

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	27	5,000	15,000

27 Loans and overdrafts

Group and charity

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loans	15,000	25,000
Payable within one year	10,000	10,000
Payable after one year	5,000	15,000

The loan was taken out in September 2020 for a term of 72 months to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. It will be repaid in equal instalments of £833 a month at a fixed interest rate of 2.5%. The amount is not secured over any of the charity's assets.

28 Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other deferred income	225,152	-

Group and charity

Included within deferred income movements is the following grant income:

£207,379 grant received from Arts Council England in March 2025 for the purpose of core costs. This grant is attached to performance conditions which were satisfied in April 2025. As such, recognition of this grant has been deferred and will be released as income in the following year.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	225,152	-
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	-	-
Resources deferred in the year	225,152	-
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	225,152	-

29 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	31,683	27,153

29 Retirement benefit schemes **(Continued)**

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund.

30 Auditors ethical standards

The relevant circumstances requiring disclosure in accordance with the requirements of APB Ethical Standard - Provisions Available for Small Entities are that, in common with many charities of our size and nature we use our auditor to assist with the preparation of the accounts.

31 Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Museum of the Year	61,128	-	-	-	-	61,128
General funds	192,956	1,746,108	(2,155,707)	755,064	-	538,421
	254,084	1,746,108	(2,155,707)	755,064	-	599,549

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Museum of the Year	61,128	-	-	-	-	61,128
General funds	197,384	1,820,421	(2,047,550)	2,700	220,000	192,955
	258,512	1,820,421	(2,047,550)	2,700	220,000	254,083

32 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Artwork fund	79,400	-	-	-	79,400	-	(43,160)	-	36,240
Collectors Group - Artists	18,673	5,180	(6,281)	(10,000)	7,572	5,802	(6,064)	-	7,310
Tate - Circuit	437	-	-	-	437	-	-	-	437
Refugee Action Restaurant	1,912	-	-	-	1,912	-	-	-	1,912
The Britishness Project	9,472	-	-	-	9,472	-	-	-	9,472
Royal Opera House	1,060	-	-	-	1,060	-	-	-	1,060
Coode-Adams Fistsite Trust	2,000	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Youth Music	8,132	-	-	-	8,132	-	-	-	8,132
Percil Bilton Charity	500	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	500
New Geographies - Wysing	(8,151)	-	-	-	(8,151)	-	-	-	(8,151)
Garfield Weston Lighting	31,444	-	-	-	31,444	-	-	-	31,444
Arts Council Collection	(17,476)	-	(1,500)	50,493	31,517	-	(754)	-	30,763
Holiday Fun	(18,163)	32,790	(69,830)	52,458	(2,745)	50	(36)	(1,407)	(4,138)
Black Essex	20,493	-	-	(20,493)	-	-	-	-	-
Art Fund	6,969	-	-	-	6,969	-	-	-	6,969
NHS Covid Project	30,000	-	-	(30,000)	-	-	-	-	-
Art Fund & BBC Commissioning	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Holiday Fund Easter 21	7,458	-	-	(7,458)	-	-	-	-	-
The Great Big Art Exhibition	1,817	-	(21)	-	1,796	-	-	-	1,796
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	60,886	-	(1,862)	-	59,024	-	-	-	59,024
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	6,768	-	-	-	6,768	-	-	-	6,768
Other	3,588	-	-	-	3,588	-	-	-	3,588
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	(18)	-	-	-	(18)	-	-	-	(18)
Lighting Project (SCA)	20,886	-	-	-	20,886	-	-	20,886	-
Lighting Project (ACE)	(7,392)	357,079	(16,087)	-	333,600	433,065	(32,487)	734,178	-
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	45,000	-	-	(45,000)	-	-	-	-	-

32 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds: Incoming resources	Movement in funds: Resources expended	Movement in funds: Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2024	Movement in funds: Incoming resources	Movement in funds: Resources expended	Movement in funds: Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fidelity	-	46,841	(12,096)	-	34,745	110,247	(66,734)	-	78,258
David Lock	-	-	(5,751)	7,300	1,549	-	-	-	1,549
Essex Fire Helmet Project	-	2,500	(2,578)	-	(78)	-	(100)	-	(178)
ACC Legacy Project	-	35,000	(29,688)	-	5,312	-	-	-	5,312
South Bank Centre	-	50,000	-	-	50,000	-	(18,220)	-	31,780
Holiday Fun (01/04/24 - 31/03/25)	-	-	-	-	-	62,550	(40,411)	1,351	23,490
Holiday Fun Aggregated	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	(242)	56	2,814
Holiday Fun Essex Association	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
	315,695	**529,390**	**(145,694)**	**(2,700)**	**696,691**	**617,714**	**(208,208)**	**(755,064)**	**351,133**

33

Firstsite Development Appeal
This relates to fixed assets purchased out of funds raised following a specific campaign for the of Firstsite.

Artwork Fund
This relates to works of art donated to the gallery which are held as heritage assets.

Collectors Group Artist Support
Funds raised by the Collectors' Group through Membership fees and special events to be used to support artists with the Collectors Group annual bursary awards and to contribute to Firstsite exhibition fundraising projects.

Refugee Action Restaurant (The Peoples postcode lottery)
Working with Syrian Refugee Community, providing facilities to enable people to mix; developing transferable skills & achieving qualifications.

Britishness Project
Supporting Learning & Education activities working with young people across Essex in a variety of educational settings to produce a set of works both authored and created by young people from national collections which give a high profile platform for young people's interpretations of British Values Britishness.

Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust Retail
Donation to support the commissioning of artist merchandise for sales in the gallery shop.

Youth Music
To expand young people's musical understanding, expression and skills including improvisation, experimentation, listening, composition and performance and developing technical skills in the use of digital technology and software. The project supports participants in engaging with, and collaborating with, a range of other community groups and develop their emotional and psychological capabilities particularly confidence, empathy, self-awareness and creativity.

New Geographies – Wysing Arts
The East Contemporary Visual Arts Network (ECVAN) launched New Geographies in May 2018, a three-year partnership between nine arts organisations in the East of England ECVAN asked people to nominate overlooked or unexpected places in the region that they find meaningful and interesting to them. The exhibition that was produced in collaboration with artist susan pui san lok focussed upon the persecution of men and women in Essex who were branded as witches. This project continues into but has been delayed owing to lockdown and the deficit is due to this delay and timing differences, a further funding payment is due later in 2021.

Garfield Weston Foundation

Firstsite was awarded part funding to support a lighting renewal programme within the gallery areas of the building. These funds are due to be utilised in 2021/22.

33 **(Continued)**

Arts Council Collection – National Partners Programme

Year two of a three-year funded programme by Arts Council England's National Contemporary Art Collection. The programme consists of several exhibitions that are co-curated by community groups in Colchester, which explores their experiences of life in the United Kingdom, be it cultural, social, or political. It explores and challenges widely held perceptions about identity and diversity. Exhibitions include content produced in partnership with community groups and drawing upon the extensive national collection of contemporary art held by Arts Council England. Final funding is due during 2021-22 financial year for the final year of the project. In addition, Black Essex funds and NHS Covid project part fund the project as part of the matched funding requirement from the funder.

Holiday Fun

This programme is open to all families, but especially those who access support with free school meals. The project consists of a canteen offering a selection of hot food, art activities and engagement and sport activities run by trained coaches. During the financial year the project has been funded by Essex Community Fund, Active Essex.

Black Essex

Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, the Black Essex exhibition represents a positive assertion of 'black artists' working presence in the UK. Raising the profile of their artistic dignity, inventive use of a visual language reflecting the artists experiences of living and working in a society in which a person with black skin is often considered inferior.

ArtFund

A small project grant to support a collaborative touring project across the Arts Council England's – National Partners Programme, with programme partners Newlyn and Sunderland contemporary art galleries.

NHS COVID Project - Art for Life

A fund from the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group who approached Firstsite to make a project that recorded the COVID-19 experiences of NHS key workers. The project started with a simple question: 'Tell us about your experience of the pandemic.' Artist-led workshops with participating key workers supported by an NHS art psychotherapist, will form the content of the exhibition and will include artworks loaned from the Arts Council Collection. This exhibition will be shown in 2021/22

Art Fund - Culture in Quarantine

A project to support Art Fund and the BBC in the R&D period towards a 'Culture in Quarantine' landmark art commission. Firstsite was part of a project team alongside Art Fund and BBC; provide advice and insight. The project will continue and Firstsite will collaborate on a prospect list of artists; manage the relationship with the artists, support with delivering initial ideas to put forward to the project team.

The Great Art Exhibition

Funded by Arts Council Collection, Firstsite created a national digital art exhibition online. The artworks are created by members of the public based around themes. The project required development of our website to enable thousands of artworks to be viewed online. The exhibition is also being displayed within the gallery during 2021/22. Funding for this project has been received after the 31 March 2021.

33 **(Continued)**

Ampersand – Michael Landy

Funding from Ampersand to support the Michael Landy 'Welcome to Essex' exhibition that explores the urban myths, received wisdoms and blatant stereotypes about the county of his birth, Essex. Landy has produced a series of ambitious new commissions based on the history of Essex, and his fascination with the county's contemporary portrayal in popular culture. Welcome to Essex links the past and present by underlining how modern-day Essex has been shaped by Thatcherism (Margaret Thatcher once resided in Colchester and first joined the Conservative Party there) and how the Essex stereotype is reinforced by the media and TV shows such as Birds of a Feather and The Only Way Is Essex.

Art Fund – Digital Respond & Re-imagine

A project to provide the funds to promote the development of digital production skills to produce online content for upcoming exhibitions, to include audio/video recordings, online talks, tours and workshops.

Arts Council England Culture Recovery Fund

Funding for capital improvements to enable accessibility to the Firstsite building by providing ramp access to the historic Berryfield lawn from the main veranda and giving access to the café area.

34 Analysis of net assets between funds

Group

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	811,914	-	811,914
Heritage assets	-	36,240	36,240
Investment properties	395,000	-	395,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	(602,365)	314,893	(287,472)
Long term liabilities	(45,000)	-	(45,000)
	559,549	351,133	910,682

Analysis of net assets between funds

Charity

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	800,364	-	800,364
Heritage assets	-	36,240	36,240
Investment properties	395,000	-	395,000
Investments	100	-	100
Current assets/(liabilities)	(560,304)	314,893	(245,411)
Long-term liabilities	(35,000)		(35,000)
	600,160	351,133	951,293

35 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

Group and charity

The investment property, 15 Queen Street, was purchased with the aid of a grant. The terms of this grant state that Firstsite Limited might have to repay the donor their share of the net proceeds of the future sale of the property. Should the property be sold for its current net book value, Firstsite Limited might potentially be required to repay £100,000.

In June 2025, when the property was sold, an amount of £100,000 was remitted to the donor.

36 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the group had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	2,827	2,486
Between two and five years	2,120	4,947
	4,947	7,433

37 Related party transactions

During the year, the group entered into the following transactions with related parties:

The group used the services of Birkett Long LLP for legal advice, of which one of the Trustees is a Partner. Transactions were carried out in the normal course of business under commercial terms. Total fees amounted to £82 (2024: £3,914).

38 Cash generated from operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(94)	376,570
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(6,834)	(246)
Fair value gains and losses on investment properties	-	(220,000)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	102,071	41,219
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in stocks	5,312	9,242
Decrease in debtors	45,008	3,844
Increase in creditors	50,293	51,878
Increase in deferred income	225,152	-
Cash generated from operations	420,908	262,507

39 **Analysis of changes in net funds**

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	72,993	(20,321)	52,672
Loans falling due within one year	(10,000)	-	(10,000)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(15,000)	10,000	(5,000)
	47,993	(10,321)	37,672

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FIRSTSITE LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1031800

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 02884347 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1031800

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

FRIDAY
ADD13YJ7
A19 04/10/2024 #75
COMPANIES HOUSE

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Registered Company number
02884347 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1031800

Registered office
Firstsite Lewis Gardens
High Steet
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1JH

Trustees
Mr G C Armitage
Mr M F L Durham (resigned 3/7/23)
Mr T Field
Ms C E C Francis
Mr A N Garnett
Mr J Harvey (resigned 3/6/24)
Ms D E Leacock
Ms R H Millard OBE
Mr R A Polom
Ms S Pui San Lok
Mr D J Rosenberg
Mr P Tibber
Cllr J A Young

Senior Statutory Auditor
Melinda J Simpson ACA

Auditors
Haines Watts
Statutory Auditors
Town Wall House
Balkerne Hill
Colchester
Essex
CO3 3AD

Solicitors
Ellisons
Headgate court
Head Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1NP

Bankers
HSBC
26 High Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1DG

CCLA Investment Management Limited
COIF Charity Funds
80 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6DZ

Lloyds Bank
22 High Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1DU

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONTENTS OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Page
Chairs' Statement	1 to 2
Report of the Trustees	3 to 10
Report of the Independent Auditors	11 to 13
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	14
Consolidated Balance Sheet	15 to 16
Charity Balance Sheet	17 to 18
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	19
Notes to the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	20
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	21 to 44

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I am writing this report days after witnessing huge queues of people snaking around Firstsite, on a day when we had visitors from across the country and the café almost (but not quite) sold out of sausage rolls. Yes, this was the moment that BBC1's Antiques Roadshow came to the gallery, and we are now awaiting three huge servings of national publicity and acclaim in the programmes which will be aired this autumn. Well done the whole team, for bringing this national treasure to Firstsite.

Firstsite is fast turning into a national treasure itself, and in terms of the year April 2023 - March 2024, the gallery has proved as popular as ever. We've had a great year. It began with the continuation of Sarah Lucas' remarkable survey by leading female artists across the UK, Big Women. This show teed up a retrospective on Lucas at Tate Britain and reminded the art world that Firstsite has a remarkable ability to show artists who matter, just a bit before everyone else does. One of the wonderful legacies of the show is a collection of witty and playful neon sculptures made by Sue Webster, who exhibited in it, and her artistic partner Tim Noble. They make Firstsite shine even more brightly!

Sarah Lucas has made a sizeable donation to the gallery, for which we are extremely grateful. Budgets are tricky things at the best of times, but now, funding is a stretch and the need for our services is greater than ever. So thank you so much Sarah, and thankyou to everyone who gave so generously this year to the Big Give. We easily broke the £20,000 target which meant that the money we raised was match-funded by The Big Give.

After Big Women, we gave the gallery to Everton Wright who filled it with his sensitive and inspiring paintings, film and sculpture in the show Libation. To enhance the immersive feel, Wright poured black and golden paint across the gallery floor and the main walkway, reminding us all that art, at Firstsite, doesn't end when the formal galleries do, but is everywhere, all the time. We were helped with this by the Art Fund, to whom we are extremely grateful.

Somebody who immersed their whole life in art was Lucy Harwood, a remarkable painter born in 1893 whose work had its first ever retrospective in our glorious show Bold Impressions. A graduate of the legendary East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing, Harwood took to painting after a botched operation caused partial paralysis down her right-hand side. She taught herself to paint with her left hand. At the Slade, no less. What a show! We learned about her amazing eye, her insistence on connecting with nature, her insistence on travelling the world, and her defiant independence which as a woman in the early 20th century, was no mean feat. Her descendants came to the opening, and wept to see the beautiful exhibition, curated by our Exhibitions Manager George Morl. The Spectator devoted a whole spread to Bold Impressions, in a great review subtitled "Joyous chaos". The exhibition was aptly sponsored by Art History Abroad.

After these two huge shows, a welter of other work was shown in quick succession at the gallery; Level Best and Sunshine Coast, Zero Contract: Zero Contact by YAK, our brilliant group of young people, and In-Between Us, a challenging salute to notions of masculinity and male identity by David Lock, also curated by George. Norfolk based artist Claire Cansick's You and I are Earth, charting the devastating effects of climate change, finished the year.

Firstsite achieved much in other areas. Our revamping and improvement of lighting across the galleries and public spaces was completed and has made a huge difference. The cinema goes from strength to strength, augmented by the arrival of our Mosaic Membership cards, where for just an annual fee of £99, members can have unlimited free access to our films, and a whole host of special offers and discounts, including in the café and shop. It has proved a very popular choice for supporters.

Holiday Fun, our award-winning programme for children and families continues to sustain and inspire the community with hot food, artistic engagement and physical activity while other projects including MiniClip, a free weekly music club for young people, toddler groups, drawing workshops, the self-explanatory Boozy Brushes, needlework clubs and the Late Lounge series of club nights on a Friday means that Firstsite is always buzzing with groups from all ages and walks of life.

I would like to thank the Arts Council of England, for whose funding and support we are very grateful. I would like to thank Essex County Council and Colchester City Council, whose support is equally welcome and important. I must also thank our many individual patrons, including Sarah Lucas as mentioned above, and Sonia and Giles Coode-Adams, who give such wonderful support and inspiration, all the people who gave to us in The Big Give, and many others. A particular thank you must go to Trevor Fenwick and Jane Hindley who have donated a major gift to Firstsite and lent us their time and expertise.

I would like to thank the whole Board of Firstsite, our wonderful Vice Chair Richard Polom, fellow Trustees Peter Tibber, Katie Francis, Alan Garnett, David Rosenberg, Julie Young, James Harvey, Susan Pui San Lok, Mark Durham, Steph Nissen, Diane Leacock, Tim Field and Guy Armitage. Your work and advocacy for Firstsite both within and outside the building is vital and hugely appreciated. Thank you for coming to all those meetings and for always being positive.

Thanks go to our Collectors' Group who support Firstsite all year round, and YAK, our young person's group.

I am proud to thank our brilliant team at Firstsite, which is absolutely terrific and which works so hard all year round to make the gallery the inspiring, challenging, welcoming place it is. I would like to thank our Chief Operations Officer Sarah Cavan-Atack who has worked wonders with the lights, and our brilliant Director Sally Shaw MBE whose achievements in making this Colchester gallery a centre with national impact. Under her charge, Firstsite continues to tread a clear, and inspiring path even in the most challenging of climates. I have every confidence that next year at Firstsite is going to prove as successful as this one has been.

.....
Ms R H Millard OBE - Chair

Date: 20/9/24

The trustees who are also directors of the group for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the group for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the group's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charity's object and its principal activity is to promote the arts in society, in particular the visual and media arts, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Colchester in particular and the surrounding area in East Anglia in general by developing public appreciation of the arts and by improving public access to and the quality of the arts. The organisation is a national leader in commissioning contemporary art, exhibiting it in the organisation's building and providing innovative new learning opportunities for the public to understand and appreciate new and existing art.

The charity's aim is to increase its reach into the community with a programme of exhibited artwork and associated learning activities. The strategy for the artistic programme is to exhibit artwork that includes new art that engages with a broad audience, show work from established artists and to produce innovative exhibitions. The learning programme's aims are to find appropriate and interesting ways to engage with underserved sections of the community, attract school visits to exhibitions and artist led workshops and to encourage more members of the community to participate in creative activity.

Vision

Making art matter.

Mission

To ensure art and creativity are valued for their integral role in shaping a happy and healthy society for everyone by:

- championing creativity as a catalyst for positive change;
- celebrating everyone's imaginations as places to shape a better future;
- demonstrating the impact of art and galleries at the centre of everyday life.

Values

Creative: we seek the highest levels of creativity in the fantastic artists and artworks that we show and support and how we work together as a team and with our communities and partners to realise our vision.

Inclusive: we continuously and actively seek to identify and remove barriers to everything we do and who we do it with to ensure it is available to those who we prioritise and who seek to share what we do.

Agile: we actively seek involvement, feedback and information from our audiences and communities - especially those we prioritise - to inform what we do, how we do it and how we can improve each time we do it.

Responsible: We need to lead by example and take responsibility for doing what we do with integrity, care and urgency. This includes taking responsibility for each other as a team, being responsible for our audiences and communities and taking responsibility for our local environment and the planet.

Public Benefit
In deciding the charity's work over the course of the year the Trustees have complied with the duty in s17 Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities
Despite significant external challenges and internal changes to the team, throughout the financial year 2023/24 Firstsite delivered an extraordinary programme of artistic activity. We were open for another full year without any further Covid restrictions. During this time we implemented our new opening hours and shifted our efforts towards developing weekend and evening activity in order to attract increased and more diverse audiences - especially those with disposable income prepared to spend on culture as a form of expression and entertainment. We have hit our audience target, even with one less day a week open. Within this we have managed to achieve national representation of all protected characteristic groups - something which not even major national galleries have achieved. This year is the first year of our current three-year funding agreement with Arts Council England.

The following report provides an assessment of our progress against our headline goals and KPIs.

1. **Creative**
   The year began with the ongoing Big Women exhibition curated by Sarah Lucas. This was followed by the highlight exhibition of the year *Libation* by Everton Wright. Everton is British born African Caribbean heritage with his parents arriving in the UK on the last ship journeying here in the 'Windrush Generation'. Libation explored his experiences as a black artist living and working in the UK. Despite being in his late fifties, this was Everton's first major solo presentation in a UK gallery, bringing together 20 years of mostly unseen work. The exhibition included a major commission of a walking drawing which comprised black and gold paint applied to Firstsite's floor from the front of the building to the back. This is the first time any artist has made a work of this nature at Firstsite. The commission was supported by Art Fun Museum of the Year funding.

   Continuing our work to celebrate artists form the region, especially those who have been overlooked, we opened a wonderful exhibition called Lucy Harwood - Bold Impressions. This brought together over 100 works by an artist who is well known locally, but who's influence and legacy has never been mapped. Lucy is also a significant social story and a symbol of triumph over adversity. She was severely disabled after a botched appendicitis operation which left her paralysed on one side of her body. This did not stop her continuing as a prolific painter inspired by the impressionists of her era and encouraging her to travel around the world painting landscapes. The exhibition was sponsored by Art History Abroad, who are also supporting the making of a publication to celebrate Lucy's work.

   Other exhibitions in the year included first-time presentations of work by Claire Cansick and David Lock, as well as new presentations by our Young Artist Kommunity YAK. David Lock's exhibition was also his first ever in a major gallery context. Overall, the year was all first-time solo presentations for all individual artists represented.

   Alongside, the Holiday Fun programme has been successfully delivered for a seventh year running. We are now up to a remarkable total of 23,000 meals provided meaning many thousands of children and families have been introduced to our core activities and are getting more creative every day. We have begun integrating Holiday Fun activity into our broader exhibition programme with a view to ensuring that there is an obvious beneficial overlap between area of programming. This means that work made by people in Holiday Fun, will in future be displayed as part of major exhibitions and participants in the programme will be centrally located at the heart of exhibition making practice.

2. **Social**

The development of our audiences, especially into the evenings and weekends has been the standout success of our activities this year. It has been a long-term goal to diversify our audiences in sustainable ways. For the first time, for a whole year (not just on a project-by-project basis) we have achieved national representation levels of all protected characteristic groups. This means that our audiences are now, quite literally a microcosm of the UK population, meaning that our studies and research into cultural impact and future visualisation can be extrapolated as a scalable idea. In some specific areas - such as the Holiday Fun programme some protected characteristics, in particular global majority ethnicity, are closer to global levels than they are to local or national.

For the first time in a long period, we have developed and sustained a comprehensive programme of ticketed events for audiences to engage in - particularly in evenings and at weekends. These have shown small and hard-won successes in terms of audience generation and income realisation. All streams of activity in the first instance showed limited interest but have steadily grown throughout the year with over 50% turning a small profit by the end of the financial year. Overall, the programme has generated a loss, however we anticipate this changing in the forthcoming financial year. It is heartening to note, that whilst the programme has overall been loss-making, we have within this invested more than £40,000 in artist fees enabling many local artists to sustain their practice. It may be seen as beneficial to turn the programme over to the charitable side of our operations in future to encourage this philanthropic support.

Firstsite has also introduced its membership programme - Mosaic. This has been in the pipeline for some time, and we took the plunge this year to continue to build our income generating capacity. By the end of the financial year, we had achieved one hundred membership sales and we were beginning to see the scheme working in terms of building our cinema audience and also people beginning to take up more events and classes with their membership discounts.

3. **Economic**

Financially, it has been another extremely tough year for Firstsite. We have felt the bite of increased cost of living, utilities costs have remained at an all-time high and our performance in development has been sub-par. The utilities costs have been our biggest issue, spending in the region of £580,000 over two years meaning our reserves are severely depleted. This has been alongside a year when even our cautious targets for income generation have not been met due to the cost-of-living crisis and the change in direction of many major trusts and foundations. To mitigate against this, the team has worked exceptionally hard to reduce expenditure, delaying new appointments and reducing costs across the board. This has been done whilst also delivering a very high-quality artistic programme on an absolute shoe-string.

There have been three major successes however and they point us towards where the future lies in this area. We have been successful in our application to Fidelity for capacity building funds. This will enable us to recruit a philanthropy post on the Senior Management Team. We will also be able to recruit a data and evaluation co-ordinator who will help us delve deeper into our impact to articulate our organisational story better to attract funds and support from a broader range of sources.

We have also enjoyed significant support from an individual donor - Trevor Fenwick. Trevor, and his incredible wife Jane Hindley have invested in Firstsite in the most timely and generous way. Not only have they contributed vital funds (£30,000 over three years) but they have also contributed expertise and opportunities. Trevor has encouraged us towards the Big Give which we delivered right at the end of the financial year. We were able to meet the highest possible target range of £40,000 all of which goes towards Holiday Fun in the new financial year. Jane has also steered our Collectors' Group to increased numbers and influence. We are now celebrating 10 years of the group who have themselves contributed £40,000 over this time especially to supporting young and emerging artists across the East Anglian region.

Lastly, it is important to acknowledge and thank the artist Sarah Lucas who also given £40,000 towards the artistic programme. This is an unbelievably generous contribution at a time when Firstsite is most in need. Sarah gave the support on the back of having a great time putting together the Big Women show and in gratitude for the opportunity to profile artists who she believes should not be overlooked at a critical point in their lives and careers.

These three areas of success point toward where Firstsite holds considerable value and influence, even in the most testing of times. The gallery has enormous support from friends, artists and philanthropists because of the amazing work it does to authentically support all its communities and stakeholders to make a difference with creativity.

4. **Sustainable**
There's light at the end of the tunnel! Quite literally. Sarah Caven-Atack and Daryl Howlett along with Property 360 need special mention here. At the time of writing the report, we are approximately 60% of the way through the lighting programme. This means that the main balance of the works to change every lightbulb in Firstsite to LED and to upgrade the entire operating system behind the lights is on its way to completing. The change in the building is remarkable. Things are obviously brighter, shaper, easier to use and the visitor experience is massively improved. Our beautiful building is once again bathed in light and is fully and completely respected and cared for in this area. The system is robust, practical and efficient and the team behind the project need to be recognised especially.

5. **Innovation and Research**
The Director, along with the senior management team have begun to develop the long-term plan for Firstsite. In the next twelve months a 10-year plan will be developed to show how the gallery will galvanise its successes, especially with regards talent development, emerging artistic practice and supporting the creative lives of children, young people and families. This ten-year plan will coincide with the next round of National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) applications with the Arts Council England as well as drawing together some strategic ambitions of our regional stakeholders including the University of Essex, Colchester City Council, Essex County Council and Tendring District Council. Firstsite is well positioned to be the leading cultural organisation in the area to actively demonstrate the impact of creativity on many people's lives, especially those facing the most adversity. By drawing together our partners, using data and analysis, we can create an example of excellence that can be replicated and scaled elsewhere across the country. Our last 10 years in this area, bodes well for our next 10 years. The key feature of the programme will be to galvanise this excellent work, having laid strong creative, social and economic foundations. We have all the tools in place to be financially strong, and we have the mindset to share this wealth to the benefit of others and in doing so, actively demonstrate the power of creativity to regenerate in the most fundamental and long-lasting ways.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The charitable company continues to endeavour to implement its risk management strategy and reserves policy in line with its business planning for the full operation of the building and the conducting of its charitable objectives. The policy is to have 3 months of expenditure covered by unrestricted reserves at any time and the trustees are working towards achieving this.

2024 saw a concentrated and sustained effort to reduce costs wherever possible, the driver being the sharp increase in energy costs which have risen a staggering 320% since the disruptions in flow of fuel began.

Funding from Trusts and Foundations has reduced significantly whilst philanthropic organisations re-evaluate their priorities. Firstsite, like many other affected organisations has relied on the targeted use of Reserves to navigate through this period. The accumulated consolidated surplus in the unrestricted fund account as of 31 March 2024 was £254,333 (2023: £258,759) and there were restricted funds of £696,691 (2023: £315,695).

Income from restricted activity increased by £370,516 (2024: £529,390 - 2023: £158,874). This funding was available to support our lighting renewal project seize on technological opportunities to reduce environmental impact, recruitment to develop new philanthropic skills, supporting new and emerging artists within the programme and community projects such as Holiday Fun and our Young Art Kommunity (YAK).

The trading activities of the group is conducted by Firstsite Enterprises Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary, whose results are included within these consolidated financial statements. The trading activity increased in revenue by £56,146 (2024: £533,359 - 2023: £477,213). There was a slight reduction in margin to 6% (2023: 7%) due to absorbing rising operating costs and not passing increases onto Firstsite customers.

Income from both unrestricted and restricted sources increased from the prior year by £366,736 (2024: £2,349,810 – 2023: £1,983,074) relating to Arts Council capital investment funding enabling us to replace obsolete lighting with sustainable lighting fit for purpose for the next 10 years and funding from Fidelity Foundation enabling us to develop expertise in philanthropic fundraising.

Overall, total resources expended decreased significantly from the prior year by £231,461 (2024: £2,193,240 - 2033: £2,424,701) because of tight cost control and mitigation however within this there was a sharp increase in utility costs which was expected and due to the high costs of electricity, the expectation is that the new energy efficient lighting being installed will start to bring these costs down during 2024/ 2025.

Tangible net fixed assets increased by £339,935 (2024: £433,009 - 2023: £ 93,074) and this movement in assets reflects the remainder of the costs to the boiler management system, costs of the cinema lighting upgrade and the depreciation charge based upon the Charity's accounting policies.

Debtors of £264,930 (2023: £268,774) includes for £114,714 (2023: £169,138) in respect of Exhibition Tax Relief and £150,216 (2023 £99,636) of trade and prepayment debtors.

Creditors £316,312 (2023: £264,434) falling due within one year includes for £153,751 of accruals and deferred income, £152,561 of trade and other creditors and £10,000 recognising Firstsite's liability to pay within a year part of the £50,000 Bounce Back loan, which has a 6-year term.

The trustees have formed a judgement, at the time of approving the financial statements, which based upon funding secured and actions taken by the executive team to respond to the budgetary impact of the cost-of-living crisis the group will continue its activities and remains a going concern.

Our thanks go to Arts Council England, Colchester City Council, Essex County Council, Art Fund, Coode-Adams Trust, Sarah Lucas, Trevor Fenwick, Jane Hindley and our many other individual supporters.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed, and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In addition, the Trustees consider other risks to the continuance of Firstsite as an artistic learning and viewing venue. The major risks to which the charity is exposed to, as identified by the trustees, include the financial position and facilities available, these have been reviewed and a system has been established to mitigate those risks. The Trustees continue to collaborate closely with the major sponsors of Firstsite to ensure common objectives and activities are achieved to ensure continued support.

Reserves policy
The groups' policy on reserves is to maintain sufficient reserves to enable the group to continue to achieve is principal objectives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
The group is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and training of new trustees
The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr G C Armitage
Mr M Durham (resigned 3/7/23)
Mr T Field
Ms C E C Francis
Mr A Garnett
Mr J Harvey (resigned 3/6/24)
Ms D E Leacock
Ms Rosie Millard OBE - Chair
Mr R A Polom - Vice Chair
Ms S Pui San Lok
Mr D J Rosenberg
Mr P Tibber
Cllr J A Young

Trustees are recruited via an agreed procedure:

1. Establish and agree the competencies required;
2. Advertise the positions via Firstsite's website and other appropriate media and invite other applicants;
3. Carry out a paper short-listing exercise comparing experience and qualifications etc. against the preferred criteria;
4. Carry out structured, competency-based interviews with members of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee and the Chair of the Managing Board and score the evidence against the pre-determined rating scale. Follow up with competency based references;
5. Arrange a meeting of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee to decide on the successful candidates;
6. Put forward the names of successful candidates to a meeting of the Board of Trustees for formal approval.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Induction and training of new trustees
New trustees undergo a period of training to brief them on their legal obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision-making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisational structure
The Board of Trustees meets at least quarterly to review the policy, strategy, medium and long-term planning needs of the organisation.

The Finance and Enterprise Committee meets regularly with the Finance Director and Director to ensure that the organisation is focused on the Business Plan priorities whilst managing risks proactively.

A Company Secretary role is appointed from amongst the Trustees to help continually develop our governance arrangements ensuring we adhere to best practice. Firstsite has also appointed a Vice Chair to take on duties and responsibilities in the absence of the Chair.

The Board of Trustees delegate day-to-day management to the Director, Ms S Shaw. Please note that Ms S Shaw is not a formal Director at Companies House.

Wider network
Firstsite has a close relationship with Arts Council of England, which is a charity, Colchester City Council and Essex County Council, all of which provide funding to enable Firstsite to carry out its charitable objectives. Firstsite is also an active member of the +Tate network and the Contemporary Visual Arts Network, contributing to sector-wide strategic projects that support increased access to art and culture across the UK.

Related parties
Firstsite Enterprises Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary company and operates the commercial aspect of the organisation which includes a number of elements. 15 Queen Street offers a creative hub for local small and new businesses. At the year-end, there were three resident members with a mix of charity, and social enterprise status.

The other activities that comprise those of Firstsite Enterprises Limited include managing the hire of spaces in Firstsite's building and organising events, conferences and meetings; the provision of a permanent café in the building which is open for food and drink 7 days a week; the provision of a shop selling art related items that includes locally produced artwork and craft. The operation of the auditorium which is used to screen live performances and with the partnership with Curzon Cinemas, a full film programme. In addition, there are a number of related talks and debates which are on offer to the public.

The commercial activity produced an income that allows Firstsite to show informative and interesting art exhibitions as well as the provision of educational workshops and classes that are free to attend or are offered at a subsidy.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Firstsite Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

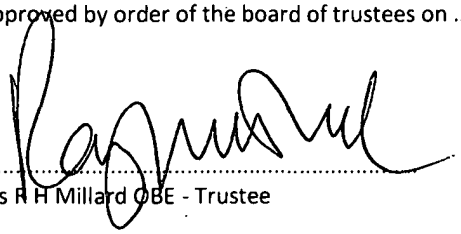
- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Haines Watts, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20/9/24 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms R H Millard OBE - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF FIRSTSITE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Firstsite Limited (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent company Balance Sheet, the consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable group and company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable group for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to both the charitable group itself and the sector in which it operates. We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our sector experience and through discussion with the directors/trustees and management. The most significant were identified as the Companies Act 2006, The Charities Act 2011, UK GAAP including Charity SORP (FRS 102) and relevant tax legislation.

We considered the extent of compliance with those laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statements. Our audit procedures included:

- We considered the risk of fraud through management override and in response, we incorporated testing of manual journal entries into our audit approach throughout the financial year.

- We also considered the risk of fraud through assumptions and judgements used within the accounting estimates and in response, reviewed and scrutinised these estimates in order to detect possible management bias.

- We also considered the risk of fraud associated with the preparation of the financial statements and in response, tested the disclosures prepared against relevant supporting documentation.

Our audit did not identify any significant matters relating to the detection of irregularities including fraud. However, despite the audit being planned and conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) there remains an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected owing to inherent limitations of the audit, and by their very nature, any such instances of fraud or irregularity likely involve collusion, forgery, intentional misrepresentation, or the override of controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Haines Watts

Melinda J Simpson ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Haines Watts
Statutory Auditors
Town Wall House
Balkerne Hill
Colchester
Essex
CO3 3AD

Date: 21.9.2024

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**2024 Total funds £**	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	**1,119,919**	**452,120**	**1,572,039**	1,105,787
Charitable activities	4				
Learning and education		**4,656**	**32,790**	**37,446**	145,334
Artistic Programme		**-**	**44,480**	**44,480**	49,684
Investment income	3	**23,530**	**-**	**23,530**	22,638
Other income		**672,315**	**-**	**672,315**	659,631
Total		**1,820,420**	**529,390**	**2,349,810**	1,983,074
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	5	**530,753**	**-**	**530,753**	468,071
Charitable activities	6				
Learning and education		**539,961**	**80,319**	**620,280**	601,994
Artistic Programme		**976,832**	**65,375**	**1,042,207**	1,354,636
Total		**2,047,546**	**145,694**	**2,193,240**	2,424,701
Revaluation adjustment		**220,000**	**-**	**220,000**	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(7,126)**	**383,696**	**376,570**	(441,627)
Transfers between funds	24	**2,700**	**(2,700)**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**(4,426)**	**380,996**	**376,570**	(441,627)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**258,759**	**315,695**	**574,454**	1,016,081
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**254,333**	**696,691**	**951,024**	574,454

The notes form part of these financial statements

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

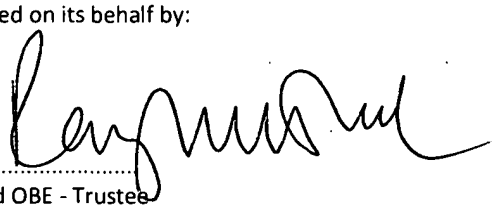
	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	**433,009**	93,074
Heritage assets	14	**79,400**	79,400
Investments			
Investment property	16	**395,000**	175,000
		907,409	347,474
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock	17	**37,004**	46,246
Debtors	18	**264,930**	268,774
Cash at bank and in hand		**72,993**	201,394
		374,927	516,414
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	19	**(316,312)**	(264,434)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**58,615**	251,980
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**966,024**	599,454
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	20	**(15,000)**	(25,000)
NET ASSETS		**951,024**	574,454
FUNDS	24		
Unrestricted funds		**34,333**	258,759
Unrestricted funds – Fair value reserve		**220,000**	-
Restricted funds		**632,171**	251,175
Restricted funds - revaluation reserve		**64,520**	64,520
TOTAL FUNDS		**951,024**	574,454

The notes form part of these financial statements

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ..... and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Ms R H Millard OBE - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	**420,491**	77,239
Heritage assets	14	**79,400**	79,400
Investments			
Investments	15	**100**	100
Investment property	16	**395,000**	175,000
		894,991	331,739
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	18	**239,982**	316,272
Cash at bank and in hand		**50,125**	126,432
		290,107	442,704
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	19	**(277,437)**	(217,288)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**12,670**	225,416
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**907,661**	557,155
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	20	**(15,000)**	(25,000)
NET ASSETS		**892,661**	532,155
FUNDS	24		
Unrestricted funds		**(24,030)**	216,460
Unrestricted funds – Fair value reserve		**220,000**	-
Restricted funds		**632,171**	251,175
Restricted funds - revaluation reserve		**64,520**	64,520
TOTAL FUNDS		**892,661**	532,155

The notes form part of these financial statements

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20/9/24 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Ms R H Millard OBE - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	**262,507**	(326,231)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		**262,507**	(326,231)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**(381,154)**	(62,365)
Interest received		**246**	2
Net cash used in investing activities		**(380,908)**	(62,363)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loan repayments in year		**(10,000)**	(10,000)
Net cash used in financing activities		**(10,000)**	(10,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**(128,401)**	(398,594)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**201,394**	599,988
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		**72,993**	201,394

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	**376,570**	(441,627)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**41,219**	28,249
Interest received	**(246)**	(2)
Revaluation on investment property	**(220,000)**	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	**3,844**	26,016
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**51,878**	55,339
Decrease/(increase) in stock	**9,242**	5,794
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	**262,507**	(326,231)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.23	Cash flow	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	**201,394**	**(128,401)**	**72,993**
	201,394	**(128,401)**	**72,993**
Debt			
Debts falling due within 1 year	**(10,000)**	-	**(10,000)**
Debts falling due after 1 year	**(25,000)**	**10,000**	**(15,000)**
	(35,000)	**10,000**	**(25,000)**
Total	**166,394**	**(118,401)**	**47,993**

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable group, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the group. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Charity information
Firstsite Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JH.

Significant judgements and estimates
In the application of the group's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Income
Income is recognised when the group is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the group has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

The group occupies a council funded building within Colchester for a peppercorn rent. It has not been possible to ascertain an accurate market rate for inclusion in the financial statements due to the specialist nature of the building provided.

Income from grants is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows;

- when donors specify that grants given to the group must be used in future accounting periods;
- when donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the group becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the preconditions have been met;
- when donors specify that grants are for restricted purposes which do not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds where receivable.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure
Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

Where the costs of charitable activities cannot be directly attributed to a charitable activity they are allocated proportionally between the artistic programme 63% (2023: 69%) and learning and education 37% (2023: 31%).

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant, equipment & auditorium	- 33% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on cost
Office IT	- 25% on cost
Gallery equipment & IT	- 20% on cost

Impairment of fixed assets
At each reporting end date, the group reviews the carrying amount of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Heritage assets
Heritage assets consist of previously donated art. These assets are not depreciated as the value is not considered to diminish. The heritage assets have been valued by an independent valuer for insurance purposes and are included at their insurance value.

Investment property
Investment property is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the SOFA.

Stock
Stock is stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition.

Taxation
Firstsite is an exempt charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011 and as such is a charity within the meaning of Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010. Accordingly, Firstsite is partially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within the categories by Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to its charitable purposes.

Firstsite received no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax. Firstsite is a partially exempt organisation for VAT purposes and consequently input tax on its purchases are not fully recoverable.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the group. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable group's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Going concern
At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Financial Instruments
The group has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. A specific provision is made for debts for which recoverability is in doubt.

Cash at bank and in hand is defined as all cash held in instant access bank accounts and used as working capital. Investments, including those in subsidiary undertakings are held at fair value at the balance sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise all creditors except social security and other taxes, deferred income and provisions.

Employee benefits
The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment or to provide termination benefits.

Operating leases
Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Consolidation
The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the charitable company and its subsidiary. As a consolidated statement of financial activity is published, a separate statement of financial activity for the parent company is omitted from the group financial statements by virtue of section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	**93,403**	79,273
Grants	**1,478,636**	1,026,514
	1,572,039	1,105,787

Government grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Arts Council England - Core Revenue Grant	**829,515**	829,514
Arts Council England - Lighting Project Grant	**355,279**	-
Essex County Council - core revenue grant	**100,000**	100,000
Colchester City Council - core revenue grant	**97,000**	97,000
	1,381,794	1,026,514

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Rental income	**23,284**	22,636
Deposit account interest	**246**	2
	23,530	22,638

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Grants	Fee income	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Learning and Education	**32,790**	**4,656**	**37,446**	145,334
Artistic Programme	**35,000**	**9,480**	**44,480**	49,684
	67,790	**14,136**	**81,926**	195,018

Government grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Arts Council England	**44,950**	39,802
Essex Association	**4,000**	2,860
Essex Community	**3,000**	7,976
	51,950	50,638

5. RAISING FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	**28,645**	25,632
Direct trading costs	**502,108**	442,439
	530,753	468,071

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Learning and education	Artistic programme	Totals
	£	£	£
Direct costs	88,965	124,604	213,569
Staff costs	140,692	252,487	393,179
Support costs (see note 7)	390,623	665,116	1,055,739
	620,280	1,042,207	1,662,487

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Learning and education	Artistic programme	Totals
	£	£	£
Support costs	370,240	630,409	1,000,649
Governance costs	20,383	34,707	55,090
	390,623	665,116	1,055,739

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	Learning and education	Artistic programme	2024 Total activities	2023 Total activities
	£	£	£	£
Wages	146,724	249,827	396,551	315,163
Social security	10,435	17,768	28,203	28,205
Pensions	5,047	8,593	13,640	11,490
Utilities	105,322	179,332	284,654	178,070
Insurance	14,668	24,976	39,644	42,800
Communication	13,676	23,287	36,963	34,039
Office costs	4,107	6,993	11,100	15,630
Recruitment and training	3,837	6,533	10,370	12,027
Building costs	27,511	46,842	74,353	139,789
Computer and telecoms	16,414	27,949	44,363	47,820
Licences and subscriptions	7,248	12,341	19,589	16,254
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	15,251	25,968	41,219	28,249
Auditors' remuneration – governance	5,192	8,841	14,033	13,837
Accountancy fees – governance	1,863	3,172	5,035	6,315
Legal and professional fees – governance	6,530	11,118	17,648	14,362
Board and committee expenses – governance	659	1,123	1,782	1,571
Bank charges – governance	6,139	10,453	16,592	15,914
	390,623	665,116	1,055,739	921,535

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	**14,033**	13,837
Accountancy fees	**5,035**	6,315
Depreciation - owned assets	**41,219**	28,249

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year.

Trustees' expenses

One trustee was reimbursed a total of £270 for travelling expenses (2023: four were reimbursed £1,571).

10. STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**774,622**	900,137
Social security costs	**58,443**	74,095
Other pension costs	**27,153**	32,150
	860,218	1,006,382

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Directors	**12**	13
General	**66**	58
	78	71

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024	2023
£70,001 - £80,000	**1**	1
	1	1

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	1,105,232	555	1,105,787
Charitable activities			
Learning and education	22,779	122,555	145,334
Artistic Programme	13,920	35,764	49,684
Investment income	22,638	-	22,638
Other income	659,631	-	659,631
Total	1,824,200	158,874	1,983,074
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	468,071	-	468,071
Charitable activities			
Learning and education	497,836	104,158	601,994
Artistic Programme	1,288,673	65,963	1,354,636
Total	2,254,580	170,121	2,424,701
NET INCOME	(430,380)	(11,247)	(441,627)
Transfer between funds	(24,931)	24,931	-
Net movement in funds	(455,311)	13,684	(441,627)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	714,070	302,011	1,016,081
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	258,759	315,695	574,454

12. PROFIT/(LOSS) OF PARENT COMPANY

As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, the profit and loss of the parent company is not presented as part of these financial statements. The parent company's surplus was £360,506 (2023: Deficit £411,642).

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group

	Plant, equipment & auditorium £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office IT £	Gallery equipment & IT £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2023	**217,212**	**398,758**	**48,708**	**417,240**	**1,081,918**
Additions	**351,051**	**30,103**	**-**	**-**	**381,154**
At 31 March 2024	**568,263**	**428,861**	**48,708**	**417,240**	**1,463,072**
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2023	**198,334**	**350,127**	**48,708**	**391,675**	**988,844**
Charge for year	**11,101**	**18,013**	**-**	**12,105**	**41,219**
At 31 March 2024	**209,435**	**368,140**	**48,708**	**403,780**	**1,030,063**
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2024	**358,828**	**60,721**	**-**	**13,460**	**433,009**
At 31 March 2023	18,878	48,631	-	25,565	93,074

Charity

	Plant, equipment & auditorium £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office IT £	Gallery equipment & IT £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2023	**186,311**	**398,758**	**48,708**	**417,240**	**1,051,017**
Additions	**349,187**	**30,103**	**-**	**-**	**379,290**
At 31 March 2024	**535,498**	**428,861**	**48,708**	**417,240**	**1,430,307**
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2023	**183,268**	**350,127**	**48,708**	**391,675**	**973,778**
Charge for year	**5,920**	**18,013**	**-**	**12,105**	**36,038**
At 31 March 2024	**189,188**	**368,140**	**48,708**	**403,780**	**1,009,816**
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2024	**346,310**	**60,721**	**-**	**13,460**	**420,491**
At 31 March 2023	3,043	48,631	-	25,565	77,239

14. HERITAGE ASSETS

Group and Charity

	Total £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	**79,400**
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	**79,400**
At 31 March 2023	79,400

The heritage assets comprise of various donated artworks. The fair value of the heritage assets has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out 24 July 2018 by Reeman Danise Limited, who are not connected to the group. The valuation was made for insurance purposes. The Board of Trustees consider that the market value of the heritage assets is not materially different to that stated above.

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Charity

	Shares in group undertakings £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	**100**
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	**100**
At 31 March 2023	100

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The charity's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

Firstsite Enterprises Limited
Registered office: Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex, United Kingdom, CO1 1JH.
Nature of business: Trading arm of charity

Class of shares:	% holding
Ordinary	100.00

16. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Group and Charity

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 April 2023	**175,000**
Revaluation	**220,000**
At 31 March 2024	**395,000**
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	**395,000**
At 31 March 2023	175,000

The investment property comprises of a leasehold commercial property situated in Queen Street of Colchester. It has been valued by the Trustees in the year at their estimate of its market value based upon a professional valuation carried out by Whybrow & Dodds Limited – Chartered Surveyors for the purpose of sale on the open market.

The revaluation surplus is disclosed within note 24 of these financial statements.

17. STOCK

	Group	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Shop stock	**30,765**	38,785
Bar and café stock	**6,239**	7,461
	37,004	46,246

18. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
	£	£	**£**	£
Trade debtors	**17,085**	70,489	**8,197**	54,149
Amounts due from group undertakings	**-**	-	**-**	72,580
Other debtors	**137,965**	180,985	**137,451**	180,428
Prepayments and accrued income	**109,880**	17,300	**94,334**	9,115
	264,930	268,774	**239,982**	316,272

19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
	£	£	**£**	£
Bank loans (see note 21)	**10,000**	10,000	**10,000**	10,000
Trade creditors	**112,878**	100,913	**66,625**	64,870
Other taxes and social security	**27,718**	16,726	**27,718**	16,592
Amounts Due to Group Undertakings	**-**	-	**21,181**	-
Other creditors	**11,965**	6,405	**11,965**	6,405
Accruals and deferred income	**153,751**	130,390	**139,948**	119,421
	316,312	264,434	**277,437**	217,288

20. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
	£	£	**£**	£
Bank loans (see note 21)	**15,000**	25,000	**15,000**	25,000

21. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
	£	£	**£**	£
Amounts falling due between one and two years:				
Bank loans - 1-2 years	**10,000**	10,000	**10,000**	10,000
Amounts falling due between two and five years:				
Bank loans - 2-5 years	**15,000**	25,000	**15,000**	25,000

The loan was taken out in September 2020 for a term of 72 months to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. It will be repaid in equal instalments of £833 a month at a fixed interest rate of 2.5%. The amount is not secured over any of the group's assets.

22. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
	£	£	**£**	£
Within one year	**4,736**	3,669	**2,486**	969
Between one and five years	**4,947**	2,264	**4,947**	14
	9,683	5,933	**7,433**	983

23. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Group

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**2024** Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	**£**	£
Fixed assets	**91,806**	**420,603**	**512,409**	172,474
Investments	**395,000**	-	**395,000**	175,000
Current assets	**84,820**	**290,107**	**374,927**	516,414
Current liabilities	**(302,293)**	**(14,019)**	**(316,312)**	(264,434)
Long term liabilities	**(15,000)**	-	**(15,000)**	(25,000)
	254,333	**696,691**	**951,024**	574,454

Charity

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**2024** Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	**£**	£
Fixed assets	**79,287**	**420,603**	**499,890**	156,639
Investments	**395,100**	-	**395,100**	175,100
Current assets	-	**290,107**	**290,107**	442,704
Current liabilities	**(263,417)**	**(14,019)**	**(277,436)**	(217,288)
Long term liabilities	**(15,000)**	-	**(15,000)**	(25,000)
	195,970	**696,691**	**892,661**	532,155

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Group

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	**197,631**	**(7,126)**	**(217,300)**	**(26,795)**
General fund – Fair value reserve	**-**	**-**	**220,000**	**220,000**
Designated - Museum of the Year	**61,128**	**-**	**-**	**61,128**
	258,759	**(7,126)**	**2,700**	**254,333**
Restricted funds				
Artwork fund	**79,400**	**-**	**-**	**79,400**
Collectors Group - Artists Support	**18,673**	**(1,101)**	**(10,000)**	**7,572**
Tate - Circuit	**437**	**-**	**-**	**437**
Refugee Action Restaurant	**1,912**	**-**	**-**	**1,912**
The Britishness Project	**9,472**	**-**	**-**	**9,472**
Royal Opera House	**1,060**	**-**	**-**	**1,060**
Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust	**2,000**	**-**	**-**	**2,000**
Youth Music	**8,132**	**-**	**-**	**8,132**
Percil Bilton Charity	**500**	**-**	**-**	**500**
New Geographies - Wysing	**(8,151)**	**-**	**-**	**(8,151)**
Garfield Weston Lighting	**31,444**	**-**	**-**	**31,444**
Arts Council Collection	**(17,476)**	**(1,500)**	**50,493**	**31,517**
Holiday Fun	**(18,163)**	**(37,040)**	**52,458**	**(2,745)**
Black Essex	**20,493**	**-**	**(20,493)**	**-**
Art Fund	**6,969**	**-**	**-**	**6,969**
NHS Covid Project	**30,000**	**-**	**(30,000)**	**-**
Art Fund & BBC Commissioning	**10,000**	**-**	**-**	**10,000**
Holiday Fund Easter 21	**7,458**	**-**	**(7,458)**	**-**
The Great Big Art Exhibition	**1,817**	**(21)**	**-**	**1,796**
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	**60,886**	**(1,862)**	**-**	**59,024**
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	**6,768**	**-**	**-**	**6,768**
Other	**3,588**	**-**	**-**	**3,588**
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	**(18)**	**-**	**-**	**(18)**
Lighting Project (SCA)	**20,886**	**-**	**-**	**20,886**
Lighting Project (ACE)	**(7,392)**	**340,992**	**-**	**333,600**
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	**45,000**	**-**	**(45,000)**	**-**
Carried forward	**315,695**	**299,468**	**(10,000)**	**605,163**

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

	At 1.4.23	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	**315,695**	**299,468**	**(10,000)**	**605,163**
Fidelity	-	**34,745**	-	**34,745**
David Lock	-	**(5,751)**	**7,300**	**1,549**
Essex Fire Helmet Project	-	**(78)**	-	**(78)**
ACC Legacy Project	-	**5,312**	-	**5,312**
South Bank Centre	-	**50,000**	-	**50,000**
	315,695	**383,696**	**(2,700)**	**696,691**
TOTAL FUNDS	**574,454**	**376,570**	-	**951,024**

Net movement in funds for the group, included in the above, are as follows:

	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Movement in Funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	**2,040,420**	**(2,047,546)**	**(7,126)**
Restricted Funds			
Collectors Group - Artists Support	**5,180**	**(6,281)**	**(1,101)**
Arts Council Collection	-	**(1,500)**	**(1,500)**
Holiday Fun	**32,790**	**(69,830)**	**(37,040)**
The Great Big Art Exhibition	-	**(21)**	**(21)**
Culture Recovery Fund	-	**(1,862)**	**(1,862)**
Lighting Project (ACE)	**357,079**	**(16,087)**	**340,992**
Fidelity	**46,841**	**(12,096)**	**34,745**
David Lock	-	**(5,751)**	**(5,751)**
Essex Fire Helmet Project	**2,500**	**(2,578)**	**(78)**
ACC Legacy Project	**35,000**	**(29,688)**	**5,312**
South Bank Centre	**50,000**	-	**50,000**
	529,390	**(145,694)**	**383,696**
TOTAL FUNDS	**2,569,810**	**(2,193,240)**	**376,570**

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Charity

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	**155,332**	**(23,190)**	**(217,300)**	**(85,158)**
General fund – Fair value reserve	**-**	**-**	**220,000**	**220,000**
Designated - Museum of the Year	**61,128**	**-**	**-**	**61,128**
	216,460	**(23,190)**	**2,700**	**195,970**
Restricted funds				
Artwork fund	**79,400**	**-**	**-**	**79,400**
Collectors Group - Artists Support	**18,673**	**(1,101)**	**(10,000)**	**7,572**
Tate - Circuit	**437**	**-**	**-**	**437**
Refugee Action Restaurant	**1,912**	**-**	**-**	**1,912**
The Britishness Project	**9,472**	**-**	**-**	**9,472**
Royal Opera House	**1,060**	**-**	**-**	**1,060**
Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust	**2,000**	**-**	**-**	**2,000**
Youth Music	**8,132**	**-**	**-**	**8,132**
Percil Bilton Charity	**500**	**-**	**-**	**500**
New Geographies - Wysing	**(8,151)**	**-**	**-**	**(8,151)**
Garfield Weston Lighting	**31,444**	**-**	**-**	**31,444**
Arts Council Collection	**(17,476)**	**(1,500)**	**50,493**	**31,517**
Holiday Fun	**(18,163)**	**(37,040)**	**52,458**	**(2,745)**
Black Essex	**20,493**	**-**	**(20,493)**	**-**
Art Fund	**6,969**	**-**	**-**	**6,969**
NHS Covid Project	**30,000**	**-**	**(30,000)**	**-**
Art Fund & BBC Commissioning	**10,000**	**-**	**-**	**10,000**
Holiday Fund Easter 21	**7,458**	**-**	**(7,458)**	**-**
The Great Big Art Exhibition	**1,817**	**(21)**	**-**	**1,796**
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	**60,886**	**(1,862)**	**-**	**59,024**
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	**6,768**	**-**	**-**	**6,768**
Other	**3,588**	**-**	**-**	**3,588**
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	**(18)**	**-**	**-**	**(18)**
Lighting Project (SCA)	**20,886**	**-**	**-**	**20,886**
Lighting Project (ACE)	**(7,392)**	**340,992**	**-**	**333,600**
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	**45,000**	**-**	**(45,000)**	**-**
Carried forward	**315,695**	**299,468**	**(10,000)**	**605,163**

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

	At 1.4.23	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	315,695	299,468	(10,000)	605,163
Fidelity	-	34,745	-	34,745
David Lock	-	(5,751)	7,300	1,549
Essex Fire Helmet Project	-	(78)	-	(78)
ACC Legacy Project	-	5,312	-	5,312
South Bank Centre	-	50,000	-	50,000
	315,695	383,696	(2,700)	696,691
TOTAL FUNDS	532,155	360,506	-	892,661

Net movement in funds for the charity, included in the above, are as follows:

	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Movement in Funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	1,483,776	(1,506,966)	(23,190)
Restricted Funds			
Collectors Group - Artists Support	5,180	(6,281)	(1,101)
Arts Council Collection	-	(1,500)	(1,500)
Holiday Fun	32,790	(69,830)	(37,040)
The Great Big Art Exhibition	-	(21)	(21)
Culture Recovery Fund	-	(1,862)	(1,862)
Lighting Project (ACE)	357,079	(16,087)	340,992
Fidelity	46,841	(12,096)	34,745
David Lock	-	(5,751)	(5,751)
Essex Fire Helmet Project	2,500	(2,578)	(78)
ACC Legacy Project	35,000	(29,688)	5,312
South Bank Centre	50,000	-	50,000
	529,390	(145,694)	383,696
TOTAL FUNDS	2,013,166	(1,652,660)	360,506

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Group

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	714,070	(430,380)	(86,059)	197,631
Designated - Museum of the Year	-	-	61,128	61,128
	714,070	(430,380)	(24,931)	258,759
Restricted funds				
Artwork fund	79,400	-	-	79,400
Collectors Group - Artists Support	19,815	(1,142)	-	18,673
Tate - Circuit	437	-	-	437
Refugee Action Restaurant	1,912	-	-	1,912
The Britishness Project	9,472	-	-	9,472
Royal Opera House	1,060	-	-	1,060
Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust	2,000	-	-	2,000
Youth Music	8,132	-	-	8,132
Percil Bilton Charity	500	-	-	500
New Geographies - Wysing	(8,151)	-	-	(8,151)
Garfield Weston Lighting	31,444	-	-	31,444
Arts Council Collection	(10,639)	(10,882)	4,045	(17,476)
Holiday Fun	5,214	(23,377)	-	(18,163)
Black Essex	20,493	-	-	20,493
Art Fund	6,969	-	-	6,969
NHS Covid Project	30,000	-	-	30,000
Art Fund & BBC Commissioning	10,000	-	-	10,000
Holiday Fund Easter 21	7,458	-	-	7,458
The Great Big Art Exhibition	2,080	(263)	-	1,817
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	62,241	(1,355)	-	60,886
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	18,586	(11,818)	-	6,768
Other	3,588	-	-	3,588
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	-	(18)	-	(18)
Lighting Project (SCA)	-	-	20,886	20,886
Lighting Project (ACE)	-	(7,392)	-	(7,392)
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	-	45,000	-	45,000
	302,011	(11,247)	24,931	315,695
TOTAL FUNDS	1,016,081	(441,627)	-	574,454

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds for the group, included in the above, are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,824,200	(2,254,580)	(430,380)
Restricted funds			
Collectors Group - Artists Support	7,614	(8,756)	(1,142)
Arts Council Collection	28,150	(39,032)	(10,882)
Holiday Fun	77,555	(100,932)	(23,377)
The Great Big Art Exhibition	-	(263)	(263)
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	-	(1,355)	(1,355)
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	-	(11,818)	(11,818)
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	555	(573)	(18)
Lighting Project (ACE)	-	(7,392)	(7,392)
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	45,000	-	45,000
	158,874	(170,121)	(11,247)
TOTAL FUNDS	1,983,074	(2,424,701)	(441,627)

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Charity

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	641,786	(400,395)	(86,059)	155,332
Designated - Museum of the Year	-	-	61,128	61,128
	641,786	(400,395)	(24,931)	216,460
Restricted funds				
Artwork fund	79,400	-	-	79,400
Collectors Group - Artists Support	19,815	(1,142)	-	18,673
Tate - Circuit	437	-	-	437
Refugee Action Restaurant	1,912	-	-	1,912
The Britishness Project	9,472	-	-	9,472
Royal Opera House	1,060	-	-	1,060
Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust	2,000	-	-	2,000
Youth Music	8,132	-	-	8,132
Percil Bilton Charity	500	-	-	500
New Geographies - Wysing	(8,151)	-	-	(8,151)
Garfield Weston Lighting	31,444	-	-	31,444
Arts Council Collection	(10,639)	(10,882)	4,045	(17,476)
Holiday Fun	5,214	(23,377)	-	(18,163)
Black Essex	20,493	-	-	20,493
Art Fund	6,969	-	-	6,969
NHS Covid Project	30,000	-	-	30,000
Art Fund & BBC Commissioning	10,000	-	-	10,000
Holiday Fund Easter 21	7,458	-	-	7,458
The Great Big Art Exhibition	2,080	(263)	-	1,817
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	62,241	(1,355)	-	60,886
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	18,586	(11,818)	-	6,768
Other	3,588	-	-	3,588
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	-	(18)	-	(18)
Lighting Project (SCA)	-	-	20,886	20,886
Lighting Project (ACE)	-	(7,392)	-	(7,392)
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	-	45,000	-	45,000
	302,011	(11,247)	24,931	315,695
TOTAL FUNDS	943,797	(411,642)	-	532,155

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds for the charity, included in the above, are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,824,200	(2,254,580)	(430,380)
Restricted funds			
Collectors Group - Artists Support	7,614	(8,756)	(1,142)
Arts Council Collection	28,150	(39,032)	(10,882)
Holiday Fun	77,555	(100,932)	(23,377)
The Great Big Art Exhibition	-	(263)	(263)
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	-	(1,355)	(1,355)
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	-	(11,818)	(11,818)
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	555	(573)	(18)
Lighting Project (ACE)	-	(7,392)	(7,392)
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	45,000	-	45,000
	158,874	(170,121)	(11,247)
TOTAL FUNDS	1,983,074	(2,424,701)	(441,627)

25. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund.

The charge to the statement of financial activity in respect of defined contribution schemes was £27,153 (2023: £32,150).

26. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The investment property, 15 Queen Street, was purchased with the aid of a grant. The terms of this grant state that in the event of a sale the group may have to repay the donor their share of the net proceeds. Should the property be sold for its current net book value, the group may be required to repay £100,000.

27. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the current financial year, the charity used the resources of Brikett Long LLP for legal advice. One of the Trustees is a Partner in the entity. Transactions were carried out in the usual course of business on commercial terms. Total fees amounted to £3,914 (2023: £2,339) for the full year.

Remuneration of key management personnel
Remuneration of key management personnel is as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	**188,780**	181,675

28. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Artwork Fund
This relates to works of art donated to the gallery, which are held as heritage assets.

Collectors Group Artist Support
Funds raised by the Collectors' Group through Membership fees and special events to be used to support artists with the Collectors Group annual bursary awards and to contribute to Firstsite exhibition fundraising projects.

Refugee Action Restaurant (The Peoples Postcode Lottery)
Working with Syrian Refugee Community, providing facilities to enable people to mix, developing transferable skills & achieving qualifications.

Britishness Project
Supporting Learning & Education activities working with young people across Essex in a variety of educational settings to produce a set of works both authored and created by young people from national collections which give a high-profile platform for young people's interpretations of British Values Britishness.

Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust Retail
Donations to support the commissioning of artist merchandise for sales in the gallery shop.

28. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

Youth Music
To expand young people's musical understanding, expression and skills including improvisation, experimentation, listening, composition and performance and developing technical skills in the use of digital technology and software. The project supports participants in engaging with, and collaborating with, a range of other community groups and develop their emotional and psychological capabilities particularly confidence, empathy, self-awareness and creativity.

New Geographies-Wysing Arts
The East Contemporary Visual Arts Network (ECVAN) launched New Geographies in May 2018, a three-year partnership between nine arts organisations in the East of England. ECVAN asked people to nominate overlooked or unexpected places in the region that they find meaningful and interesting to them. The exhibition that was produced in collaboration with artist Susan Pui San Lok focussed upon the persecution of men and women in Essex who were branded as witches. This project continues but was delayed owing to lockdown, the deficit is due to this delay and timing differences, a further funding payment is due.

Garfield Weston Foundation
Firstsite was awarded part funding to support a lighting renewal programme within the gallery areas of the building. These funds are due to be utilised within the charity wide lighting project.

Arts Council Collection - National Partners Programme
The final year of a three-year funded programme by Arts Council England's National Contemporary Art Collection. The programme consists of several exhibitions that are co-curated by community groups in Colchester, which explores their experiences of life in the United Kingdom, be it cultural, social or political. It explores and challenges widely held perceptions about identity and diversity. Exhibitions include content produced in partnership with community groups and drawing upon the extensive national collection of contemporary art held by Arts Council England. In addition, Black Essex Funds and the NHS COVID Project part fund the project as a part of the matched funding requirement from the funder.

Holiday Fun
This programme is open to all families, but especially those who access support with free school meals. The project consists of a canteen offering a selection of hot food, art activities, engagement and sport activities run by trained coaches during the school holidays. During the financial year the project has been funded by Essex Community Fund, Essex Community Foundation, Arts Council, Tendring Community, Essex Association, Community 360 and Active Essex.

Black Essex
Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, the Black Essex exhibition represents a positive assertion of 'black artists' working presence in the UK. Raising the profile of their artistic dignity, inventive use of a visual language reflecting the artists experiences of living and working in a society in which a person with black skin is often considered inferior.

Art Fund
A small project grant to support a collaborative touring project across Art Council England's National Partners Programme, with programme partners Newlyn and Sunderland Contemporary Art Galleries.

28. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

NHS Covid Project - Art for Life
A fund from the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group who approached Firstsite to make a project that recorded the COVID-19 experiences of NHS key workers. The project started with a simple question: 'Tell us about your experience of the pandemic'. Artist-led workshops with participating key workers supported by an NHS art psychotherapist, will form the context of the exhibition and will include artworks loaned from the Arts Council Collection.

The Great Art Exhibition
Funded by Arts Council Collection, Firstsite created a national digital art exhibition online. The artworks are created by members of the public based around themes. The project required development of our website to enable thousands of artworks to be viewed online.

Art Fund - Culture in Quarantine
A project to support Art Fund and the BBC in the R&D period towards a 'Culture in Quarantine' landmark art commission. Firstsite was part of a project team alongside in Art Fund and BBC Provide Advice and Insight. The project will continue and Firstsite will collaborate on a prospect list of artists; manage the relationship with the artists, support with delivering initial ideas to put forward to the project team.

Ampersand - Michael Landy
Funding from Ampersand to support the Michael Landy 'Welcome to Essex' exhibition that explores the urban myths, received wisdoms and blatant stereotypes about the county of his birth, Essex. Landy has produced a series of ambitious new commissions based on the history of Essex, and his fascination with the county's contemporary portrayal in popular culture. Welcome to Essex links the past and present by underlying how modern-day Essex has been shaped by Thatcherism (Margaret Thatcher once resided in Colchester and first joined the Conservative Party there) and how the Essex stereotype is reinforced by the media and TV shows as Birds of a Feather and The Only Way Is Essex.

Art Fund - Digital Respond & Re-Imagine
A project to provide the funds to promote the development of digital production skills to produce online content for upcoming exhibitions, to include audio/video recordings, online talks, tours and workshops.

Arts Council England Culture Recovery Fund
Funding for capital improvements to enable accessibility to the Firstsite building by providing ramp access to the historic Berryfield lawn from the main veranda and giving access to the cafe area.

Kew Gardens – Grow Wild Youth Project
A project funded by Kew Garden's youth programme Grow Wild. The aim was to connect Colchester to the natural world through foraging, folklore and art.

Lighting Project SCA (Garfield Weston)
Funding for capital improvements to improve the building's lighting infrastructure and reduce environmental impact.

Lighting Project (ACE)
Arts Council England Investment Programme, will support cultural organisations to adjust buildings and equipment so that they can operate safely post-pandemic and improve access, seize on technological opportunities and reduce environmental impact.

28. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

Art Fund - Reimagine
This programme is open to all families, but especially those who access support with free school meals. The project consists of a canteen offering a selection of hot nutritious food, art, engagement and sport activities run by trained coaches during the school holidays. During the financial year, the purpose of the project is to reimagine how we can significantly continue to engage and deepen our relationship with families, through increasing the regularity of the programme, to enable families to have access to free creative activities and a fun creative day out together during the most difficult months immediately after Christmas and into Spring.

Fidelity
This funding will enable Firstsite to build capacity, keeping the strategic areas of children, young people and families at the core by building a new philanthropic model and sponsorship programme.

David Lock – In-between Us
The costs of this exhibition supported by funding from the Firstsite Collectors Group, enables the award willing artist David Lock to bring an exciting mix of existing work and new painting to Firstsite for his first solo public exhibition.

Essex Fire Helmet Project
The costs of this exhibition supported by funding from Essex County Fire and Rescue services in partnership with the Safer Essex Roads Partnership exploring the risks perceived and faced by young people working in the gig economy, particularly the delivery of food, and the vulnerability of these road users. YAK are designing and delivering an art concept using motorcycle helmets to help share this topic which will be exhibited in Firstsite with further information on roads and the changes the sector is seeing with micro-journeying to enable road users to be safer.

Arts Council Collection – Legacy Project
Funding to enable three initiatives, Everton Wright to present his first ever major solo presentation of existing and new work, the exhibition will coincide with both the anniversary of the Windrush docking in Tilbury Essex and Black history month in October 2023. Creative Associates to bring members of specific communities and protected characteristic groups even further into Firstsite through formal paid employment and YAK – Young Artists Kommunity to curate and exhibition with artist Lora Aziz of Wyrd Flora.

ACCNP – Workforce Grant South Bank Centre
Funding a new leadership role from global majority backgrounds to improve diversity within the arts sector.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1031800

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 02884347 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1031800

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2023

FRIDAY
ACHFOHOW
A12 01/12/2023 #67
COMPANIES HOUSE

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Registered Company number
02884347 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1031800

Registered office
Firstsite Lewis Gardens
High Steet
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1JH

Trustees
Mr G C Armitage
Mr M F L Durham (resigned 3/7/23)
Mr T Field
Ms C E C Francis
Mr A N Garnett
Mr J Harvey
Ms D E Leacock
Ms R H Millard OBE
Mr R A Polom
Ms S Pui San Lok
Mr D J Rosenberg
Mr P Tibber
Cllr J A Young

Senior Statutory Auditor
Melinda J Simpson ACA

Auditors
Haines Watts
Statutory Auditors
Town Wall House
Balkerne Hill
Colchester
Essex
CO3 3AD

Solicitors
Ellisons
Headgate court
Head Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1NP

Bankers
HSBC
26 High Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1DG

CCLA Investment Management Limited
COIF Charity Funds
80 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6DZ

Lloyds Bank
22 High Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1DU

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONTENTS OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Page
Chairs' Statement	1 to 2
Report of the Trustees	3 to 10
Report of the Independent Auditors	11 to 14
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	15
Consolidated Balance Sheet	16 to 17
Charity Balance Sheet	18 to 19
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	20
Notes to the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	21
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	22 to 45

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

What a great year it's been at Firstsite. For the twelve months from Spring 2022, our first proper year out of the strictures of COVID-19, we staged amazing art works, welcomed communities, were heralded in the national press, and gave over 7,000 hot meals to families and young people. We were selected by His Majesty King Charles III as one of only three charitable institutions to focus on and celebrate, when he and Her Majesty Queen Camilla visited Colchester in March 2023 in order to acknowledge its new status as a British city.

Firstly, the art. Mehdi Jalalaghdamian is a master rug maker from Iran, whose work has been on show in the gallery since September 2022. Currently seeking asylum in the UK, Mehdi's work, which will be exhibited until September 2023, draws attention to the experiences of refugees, particularly those who have suffered sea crossings to reach safety. *Art in Exile* features three rugs made by Mehdi during his time as a refugee in Stockholm. It also screens several films. The programme was funded by our 2023 Museum of the Year award.

Celebrated contemporary artists The Singh Twins brought their show Slaves of Fashion to Firstsite during the summer of 2022. Identical twins Amrit and Rabindra Kaur Singh, famous for their intricate artwork which combines traditions from both East and West, created a compelling argument with life-size symbolic portraits of historical figures presented as digital fabric light-box art works demonstrating the history of Indian fabric design and its commercial exploitation. Satirical paintings exhibited alongside the light boxes focused on the British Empire's relationship with India and the wider meaning of colonialism. The light boxes were displayed inside the galleries; alongside an array of hand-painted preparatory art works, drawings and historical objects. The whole show was provocative and beautiful.

Our exploration of artists local to the area continued last autumn with a monumental tribute to Denis Wirth-Miller; his landscapes, done as if from the window of a speeding car and his beasts, exhibited alongside parallel works by Francis Bacon, were shown in possibly the largest retrospective this much-admired artist has ever had. Apollo Magazine claimed this was "an opportunity that no-one who is interested in 20th century British art should miss".

Meanwhile in spring 2023, late 20th century art was heralded by Big Women, a nationally celebrated show curated by one of the stars of the YBA years, Sarah Lucas. Lucas chose to exhibit work by two dozen women including Dame Maggie Hambling, Sue Webster, Georgina Starr and our own Sonia Coode-Adams, in order to highlight work by mid-career female artists. In acclaiming the show, Waldemar Januszczak from The Sunday Times asked, "Why isn't this lively and pertinent British female art ever shown at Tate Britain or the Serpentine Gallery?"

Alongside these big shows were a myriad of delightful presentations, many of which hung within the big curving corridor at Firstsite all year. They included lantern houses by Glasgow's Distanced Assemblage, Leaking Lines by Reena Kallat, showing contested borders across the world, Simon Carter and Jevan Watkins-Jones' Shore Lines; beautiful, charcoal drawings of the Essex and Suffolk coastline, and Keep Being Amazing, our final display of work borrowed from the Arts Council National Collection, this time curated by our squad of children and young people who take part in Holiday Fun. On the subject of Holiday Fun, during 2022-23 this nationally acclaimed programme grew and grew, having fun not just in the holidays but during many if not all weekends, plus half terms. As the cost of living crunched, Holiday Fun had renewed vigour and resonance. Our restaurant and galleries inspired and fed over 2,500 children and nearly 2,000 adults. That's not all; families who took part in Holiday Fun also worked on creative projects. The scheme has gone from strength to strength and inspired similar projects in galleries across the country.

During 2022-2023, Firstsite not only gave people things to look at and eat but encouraged people to think and talk during our new Talks programme. Seasoned critic for The Art Newspaper Louisa Buck, who is Colchester born and bred, led a remarkable series of talks including ones with Venice Golden Lion winner Sonia Boyce Turner Prize-winner Jeremy Deller and fashion guru Zandra Rhodes. The culmination was in the More Big Women Conference, led by Buck, which included a keynote address from the Director of Tate, Maria Balshaw.

Perhaps because of Holiday Fun and our Talks programme, Firstsite cemented its position at the heart of Colchester; the annual City Christmas Fete and Lantern Parade ended up at a wonderful fairground outside the building, while sculpture by Julian Opie and Sarah Lucas delighted and intrigued visitors to the gardens and piazza outside. Our restaurant was refurbished and relaunched and has become a fixture in the Colchester lunchtime economy, while our shop drew on commercial possibilities from the exhibitions, all of which of course had free admission. Our cinema went from strength to strength as audiences returned to film-going after two years watching DVDs at home.

The broader financial landscape for culture and the world at large has proven challenging as we emerge from COVID-19 and experience the backlash of the war in Ukraine, the effects of which can be seen in the increasing costs Firstsite is exposed to across the board. This makes it even more crucial to thank the many continuing and new supporters of Firstsite who are steadfast in their loyalty and contribution.

I would like to thank our supporting partners, notably Arts Council England, for whose patronage and championing we are so glad and grateful as we continue as a National Portfolio Organisation. Equally, our two local partners, Essex County Council and Colchester City Council, whose support is equally welcome and important. I would like to thank our many individual patrons, including Sonia and Giles Coode-Adams, and Trevor Fenwick who have been such faithful and remarkable friends, and others who prefer to remain anonymous.

I would like to thank my sage and patient Vice Chair Richard Polom, and the entire Board of Trustees during the 2022-23 year, namely Diane Leacock, Peter Tibber, Katie Francis, Susan Pui San Lok, Cllr Mark Durham, Tim Field, Cllr Julie Young, Alan Garnett, Cllr Molly Bloomfield, James Harvey, David Rosenberg and Guy Armitage.

I would like to thank The Firstsite Collectors' Group, so inspiringly chaired by Jane Hindley and individual supporters including Georgie Garthwaite, Henrietta Guest and Joanne Ooi who helped put on the More Big Women conference sponsored by The University of Essex, Emson Haig and Essex County Council, and our young person's group, YAK, which has always been so committed to keeping Firstsite in touch with what local young people think and want.

Finally, I must thank the wonderful, energetic and professional team at Firstsite, whose dedication and skill we value hugely, and our brilliant Director Sally Shaw MBE who is responsible for ensuring Firstsite keeps to its mission of bringing worldclass art to Colchester. Sally's focus and passion is remarkable and under her guidance, as this report demonstrates, Firstsite has enjoyed a remarkable and successful year.

.....
Ms R H Millard OBE – Chair

Date: 9-11-23

The trustees who are also directors of the group for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the group for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the group's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charity's object and its principal activity is to promote the arts in society, in particular the visual and media arts, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Colchester in particular and the surrounding area in East Anglia in general by developing public appreciation of the arts and by improving public access to and the quality of the arts. The organisation is a national leader in commissioning contemporary art, exhibiting it in the organisation's building and providing innovative new learning opportunities for the public to understand and appreciate new and existing art.

The charity's aim is to increase its reach into the community with a programme of exhibited artwork and associated learning activities. The strategy for the artistic programme is to exhibit artwork that includes new art that engages with a broad audience, show work from established artists and to produce innovative exhibitions. The learning programme's aims are to find appropriate and interesting ways to engage with underserved sections of the community, attract school visits to exhibitions and artist led workshops and to encourage more members of the community to participate in creative activity.

Vision

Making art matter.

Mission

To ensure art and creativity are valued for their integral role in shaping a happy and healthy society for everyone by:

- championing creativity as a catalyst for positive change;
- celebrating everyone's imaginations as places to shape a better future;
- demonstrating the impact of art and galleries at the centre of everyday life.

Values

Creative: we seek the highest levels of creativity in the fantastic artists and artworks that we show and support and how we work together as a team and with our communities and partners to realise our vision.

Inclusive: we continuously and actively seek to identify and remove barriers to everything we do and who we do it with to ensure it is available to those who we prioritise and who seek to share what we do.

Agile: we actively seek involvement, feedback and information from our audiences and communities – especially those we prioritise – to inform what we do, how we do it and how we can improve each time we do it.

Responsible: We need to lead by example and take responsibility for doing what we do with integrity, care and urgency. This includes taking responsibility for each other as a team, being responsible for our audiences and communities and taking responsibility for our local environment and the planet.

Public Benefit
In deciding the charity's work over the course of the year the Trustees have complied with the duty in s17 Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities
Throughout the financial year 2022/23 Firstsite delivered an extraordinary programme of artistic activity whilst also continuing to adjust to life post-covid. The year progressed with no restrictions, no further emergency funding and new challenges in the light of the war in Ukraine and rising costs across the board. Our audiences have continued to return in strong numbers, and we re-gained pre-covid levels of footfall in the last quarter of the year. Firstsite was also successful in applying to Arts Council England to return to the National Portfolio commencing in the new financial year 2023/24.

The following report provides an assessment of our progress against our headline goals and KPIs.

1. **Be a radical and outstanding art gallery**
   Firstsite has maintained an exceptional standard of artistic presentations throughout the year, maintaining high levels of diversity alongside impeccable quality and conceptual rigour. Highlight exhibitions include The Singh Twins *Slaves of Fashion*, Denis Wirth-Miller *Landscapes and Beasts, Big Women* curated by Sarah Lucas and of course *Art in Exile* profiling previously unseen work by master rug-maker Mehdi Jalalaghdamian. We have also dedicated significant resources to working with artists from the East Anglian region by continuing to profile work by artists living and working locally today as well as those who have laid the foundations of our current artistic community such as Dennis Wirth-Miller.

2. **Bring lots of different people together to enjoy art and culture**
   We succeeded in returning to pre-covid levels of footfall by quarter four of the financial year 2022/23. Overall, 112,654 people came to the gallery with more attending activities online. We have noticed significant shifts in some demographic areas, in that younger audiences have decreased and people from some global majority groups have visited in fewer numbers, however overall global majority attendance is up on pre-covid levels. This is potentially due to the nature of many of the exhibitions and their appeal to certain sectors. Global majority audiences increased during the Singh Twins Slaves of Fashion exhibition for example. Alongside, our net promoter score has increased by 23 points on our pre-covid score and three points higher than 2021/22 at 72.

3. **Be bold in improving diversity and inclusion**
   We have maintained our target to deliver a programme that is at least 50% authored by people from protected characteristic groups with women, people from global majorities, LGBTQI+ and marginalised communities featured in all headline exhibitions. Our headline exhibition with Sarah Lucas focused specifically on women who are in the later stages of life and work. Over 24 female artists were highlighted in a show which generated incredible press coverage for the artists and Firstsite and saw audience figures increase significantly. The opening night was attended by over 1,500 people.

   The diversity of our audiences has changed again. We are seeing fewer younger people coming to Firstsite – likely due to the nature of the exhibitions in 2022/23, some of which explicitly celebrated ageing. Global majority audiences overall are higher than our pre-covid levels at 9.5% having increased by 0.6% from 8.9% in 2019/20. However, within this we have seen a slight decrease in Asian or Asian British audiences by 0.6%. With regards gender identity, we have seen an increase in visitors identifying 'in another way' up to 2.3% from 1.3% pre-covid.

In the year we employed a total of 253 people through permanent contracted roles (40), freelance contracts (147) and volunteers (66). We have seen increased levels of diversity in our permanent contracted staff with regards global majorities (12.5%) and disability (5%) these are both significantly higher again in our volunteer pool which is over the national demographic at 21% and 25% respectively.

Across the Holiday Fun provision there was an average of 40% global majority attendance of both children and adults. We have also created new employment opportunities for global majority community members through Firstsite holiday fun. The menu has been adapted to include diverse foods from across our community links including recipes from Jamaica, Bangladesh and Iraq and Syria. For several of these new team members this is their first employment opportunity ever in this country. We have been further collaborating with Refugee And Migrant Action Colchester, African Families in the UK and the Bangladeshi women's association Essex on this initiative.

4. **Champion the needs of Children and Young People**
The 32 members of our Young Artist Kommunity (YAK) have participated in 68 events, workshops and mentoring sessions which were attended 502 times in total. Sessions were led by 27 artists over the year, and they welcomed 400 audience members to YAK specific activity.

Holiday Fun continued to be delivered throughout the year and included a trial run of the programme at weekends as well as school holidays. A total of 6,980 meals were served to 1,190 families across the year. This breaks down as 1,825 adults and 2,566 individual children supported through the programme. This is a total of 16,549 meals so far since the beginning of the programme in 2017.

Firstsite hosted 41 onsite and 9 offsite school visits from schools across central Colchester. We employed seven local artists to deliver these activities giving vital resources for local creatives living in the area. A total of 1,293 pupils took part in artist led workshops designed specifically for each school. Pupils were also taken on gallery tours by artists and Firstsite staff including the Head of Programmes.

5. **Be financially resilient and share our resources**
Firstsite has successfully re-applied to Arts Council England's National Portfolio and achieved continued funding for the next three years until 2026. Our core funding from our other significant partners – Colchester City Council and Essex County Council is also in place for a further three years and we have continued to develop significant new relationships with funders and supporters across all our works streams. We were especially delighted to be sponsored by Sadie Coles Gallery, the Firstsite Collectors' Group, Association of Women in The Arts, Emson Haig, University of Essex and Essex County Council on the More Big Women conference in March 2023.

Our financial challenges from external forces have been significant and this is felt clearly in our budgets. Audiences have been cautious to return nationally to cultural venues and we have felt this in our commercial performance. Coupled with this, as a large venue we have been significantly impacted by the rise in fuel prices. We are fortunate to have accumulated significant reserves which have aided our successful navigation of this without affecting our overall volume and quality of creative output. This is a reflection of the careful stewardship of the executive team as we continually adapt to rapidly changing times and the aftershocks of COVID-19.

6. **Be excellent in our Governance and management**
Firstsite's committed and studious Board of Trustees have remained clearly focussed on the many challenges we have faced over the last 12 months. They have created a space for careful stewardship of our valuable resources, alongside support and encouragement to continue to be ambitious in our creative reach and ensure we don't lose sight of the artists, communities and narratives that should be supported and given visibility especially in times of global difficulty. We have anticipated the particularly difficult year post-covid and have implemented significantly increased reporting and communication between executive team and Board with the introduction of our Major Projects Working Group as we move through several significant organisational and operational changes such as the implementation of our new lighting system and the change to our opening hours which has been successfully steered through to implementation.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The charitable company continues to endeavour to implement its risk management strategy and reserves policy in line with its business planning for the full operation of the building and the carrying out of its charitable objectives. The policy is to have 3 months of expenditure covered by unrestricted reserves at any time and the trustees are working towards achieving this.

2022/23 saw a full 12 months of activity however following on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic is now the devastating conflict between Ukraine and Russia which has caused a refugee crisis and economic hardship far from the epicentre of the fighting. Disruptions in flow of fuel and grain are driving up food and gas prices sharply. Funding has reduced significantly this year whilst philanthropic organisations re-evaluate their priorities. Firstsite, like many other affected organisations has relied on the targeted use of Reserves to navigate through this period. The accumulated consolidated surplus in the unrestricted fund account as of 31 March 2023 was £258,759 (2022: £714,070) and there were restricted funds of £315,695 (2022: £302,011).

Income from restricted activity fell by £282,153 (2023: £158,874 – 2022: £441,027). Funding of £158,874 was available to support community projects, such as Holiday Fun and our Young Art Kommunity (YAK).

The trading activities of the group are carried out by Firstsite Enterprises Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary, whose results are included in these consolidated financial statements. The trading activity increased in revenue by £145,770 (2023: £477,213 – 2022: £331,443). The trading activity was benefited from a full 12 month trading period and increasing footfall through the gallery. There was a slight reduction in margin and due to gift aided prior year profits to Firstsite Limited leading to an in-year loss amounting to £29,985.

Income from both unrestricted and restricted sources decreased from the prior year by £851,486 (2023: £1,983,074 – 2022: £2,834,560) mainly relating to one off awards in 2022 from Arts Council Culture Recovery Funding of £627,625 and £100,000 of Museum of the Year Award. The 2023 year has seen a very tough fundraising environment.

Total resources expended decreased slightly from the prior year by £25,740 (2023: £2,424,701 – 2022: £2,450,441), mainly as a result of increased costs of unrestricted charitable activities of £154,373 (2023: £2,254,582 – 2022: £2,100,207) and decreases in activity associated with restricted activities of £180,113 (2023: £170,121 – 2022: £350,234). The increases are reflective of the 12-month trading period during the year and price rises generally.

Tangible net fixed assets increased by £34,116 (2023: £93,074 – 2022: £58,958) from the prior financial year and this movement in assets reflects the depreciation charge based upon the Charity's accounting policies, IT equipment replacement and costs relating to the boiler management system.

Debtors of £268,774 (2022: £294,790) includes £163,935 (2022: £137,611) in respect of Exhibition Tax Relief. The relief rate increased with effect from 27th October 2021 to 45% for non-touring exhibitions and £104,839 (2022: £157,179) of trade and prepayment debtors.

Creditors £264,434 (2022: £209,095) falling due within one year includes for £130,390 of accruals and deferred income, £100,913 of trade creditors and £10,000 recognising Firstsite's liability to pay within a year part of the £50,000 Bounce Back loan, which has a 6-year term.

The trustees have formed a judgement, at the time of approving the financial statements, that based upon funding secured and actions being taken to respond the financial impact of the cost-of-living crisis the group will continue its activities for the foreseeable future and remains a going concern.

Our thanks go to Arts Council England, Colchester City Council, Essex County Council, Art Fund, Coode-Adams Trust, Ampersand, Hervey Benham Trust, Colchester Rotary Club, Waitrose and our many other individual supporters.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In addition, the Trustees consider other risks to the continuance of Firstsite as an artistic learning and viewing venue. The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, include the financial position and facilities available, have been reviewed and a system has been established to mitigate those risks. The Trustees continue to work closely with the major sponsors of Firstsite to ensure common objectives and activities are achieved to ensure continued support.

Reserves policy
The groups' policy on reserves is to maintain sufficient reserves to enable the group to continue to achieve is principal objectives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
The group is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and training of new trustees
The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr G C Armitage
Mr M Durham (resigned 3/7/23)
Mr T Field
Ms C E C Francis
Mr A Garnett
Mr J Harvey
Ms D E Leacock
Ms Rosie Millard OBE – Chair
Mr R A Polom – Vice Chair
Ms S Pui San Lok
Mr D J Rosenberg
Mr P Tibber
Cllr J A Young

Trustees are recruited via an agreed procedure:

1. Establish and agree the competencies required;
2. Advertise the positions via Firstsite's website and other appropriate media and invite other applicants;
3. Carry out a paper short-listing exercise comparing experience and qualifications etc. against the preferred criteria;
4. Carry out structured, competency-based interviews with members of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee and the Chair of the Managing Board and score the evidence against the pre-determined rating scale. Follow up with competency based references;
5. Arrange a meeting of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee to decide on the successful candidates;
6. Put forward the names of successful candidates to a meeting of the Board of Trustees for formal approval.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Induction and training of new trustees
New trustees undergo a period of training to brief them on their legal obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision-making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisational structure
The Board of Trustees meets at least quarterly to review the policy, strategy and medium- and long-term planning needs of the organisation.

The Finance and Enterprise Committee meets regularly with the Finance Director and Director to ensure that the organisation is focused on the Business Plan priorities whilst managing risks proactively.

A Company Secretary role is appointed from amongst the Trustees to help continually develop our governance arrangements ensuring we adhere to best practice. Firstsite has also appointed a Vice Chair to take on duties and responsibilities in the absence of the Chair.

The Board of Trustees delegate day-to-day management to the Director, Ms S Shaw. Please note that Ms S Shaw is not a formal Director at Companies House.

Wider network
Firstsite has a close relationship with Arts Council of England, which is a charity, Colchester City Council and Essex County Council, all of which provide funding to enable Firstsite to carry out its charitable objectives. Firstsite is also an active member of the +Tate network and the Contemporary Visual Arts Network, contributing to sector-wide strategic projects that support increased access to art and culture across the UK.

Related parties
Firstsite Enterprises Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary company and operates the commercial aspect of the organisation which includes a number of elements. 15 Queen Street offers a creative hub for local small and new businesses. At the year-end, there were three resident members with a mix of charity, and social enterprise status.

The other activities that comprise those of Firstsite Enterprises Limited include managing the hire of spaces in Firstsite's building and organising events, conferences and meetings; the provision of a permanent café in the building which is open for food and drink 7 days a week; the provision of a shop selling art related items that includes locally produced artwork and craft. The operation of the auditorium which is used to screen live performances and with the partnership with Curzon Cinemas, a full film programme. In addition, there are a number of related talks and debates which are on offer to the public.

The commercial activity produced an income that allows Firstsite to show informative and interesting art exhibitions as well as the provision of educational workshops and classes that are free to attend or are offered at a subsidy.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Firstsite Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Haines Watts, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 9.11.23 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Ms R H Millard OBE - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF FIRSTSITE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Firstsite Limited (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent company Balance Sheet, the consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable group and company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable group for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to both the charitable group itself and the sector in which it operates. We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our sector experience and through discussion with the directors/trustees and management. The most significant were identified as the Companies Act 2006, The Charities Act 2011, UK GAAP including Charity SORP (FRS 102) and relevant tax legislation.

We considered the extent of compliance with those laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statements. Our audit procedures included:

- We considered the risk of fraud through management override and in response, we incorporated testing of manual journal entries into our audit approach throughout the financial year.

- We also considered the risk of fraud through assumptions and judgements used within the accounting estimates and in response, reviewed and scrutinised these estimates in order to detect possible management bias.

- We also considered the risk of fraud associated with the preparation of the financial statements and in response, tested the disclosures prepared against relevant supporting documentation.

Our audit did not identify any significant matters relating to the detection of irregularities including fraud. However, despite the audit being planned and conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) there remains an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected owing to inherent limitations of the audit, and by their very nature, any such instances of fraud or irregularity likely involve collusion, forgery, intentional misrepresentation, or the override of controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF FIRSTSITE LIMITED

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Haines Watts

Melinda J Simpson ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Haines Watts
Statutory Auditors
Town Wall House
Balkerne Hill
Colchester
Essex
CO3 3AD

Date: 10.11.2025

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	1,105,232	555	1,105,787	1,730,312
Charitable activities	4				
Learning and education		22,779	122,555	145,334	36,252
Artistic Programme		13,920	35,764	49,684	444,271
Investment income	3	22,638	-	22,638	23,172
Other income		659,631	-	659,631	600,553
Total		1,824,200	158,874	1,983,074	2,834,560
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	5	468,071	-	468,071	326,436
Charitable activities	6				
Learning and education		497,836	104,158	601,994	531,303
Artistic Programme		1,288,673	65,963	1,354,636	1,592,702
Total		2,254,580	170,121	2,424,701	2,450,441
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(430,380)	(11,247)	(441,627)	384,119
Transfers between funds	24	(24,931)	24,931	-	-
Net movement in funds		(455,311)	13,684	(441,627)	384,119
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		714,070	302,011	1,016,081	631,962
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		258,759	315,695	574,454	1,016,081

The notes form part of these financial statements

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	**93,074**	58,958
Heritage assets	14	**79,400**	79,400
Investments			
Investment property	16	**175,000**	175,000
		347,474	313,358
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock	17	**46,246**	52,040
Debtors	18	**268,774**	294,790
Cash at bank and in hand		**201,394**	599,988
		516,414	946,818
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	19	**(264,434)**	(209,095)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**251,980**	737,723
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**599,454**	1,051,081
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	20	**(25,000)**	(35,000)
NET ASSETS		**574,454**	1,016,081
FUNDS	24		
Unrestricted funds		**258,759**	714,070
Restricted funds		**251,175**	237,491
Restricted funds - revaluation reserve		**64,520**	64,520
TOTAL FUNDS		**532,155**	1,016,081

The notes form part of these financial statements

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 9.11.23 and were signed on its behalf by:

Ms R H Millard OBE - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	77,239	38,844
Heritage assets	14	79,400	79,400
Investments			
Investments	15	100	100
Investment property	16	175,000	175,000
		331,739	293,344
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	18	316,272	290,949
Cash at bank and in hand		126,432	580,678
		442,704	871,627
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	19	(217,288)	(186,174)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		225,416	685,453
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		557,155	978,797
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	20	(25,000)	(35,000)
NET ASSETS		532,155	943,797
FUNDS	24		
Unrestricted funds		216,460	641,786
Restricted funds		251,175	237,491
Restricted funds - revaluation reserve		64,520	64,520
TOTAL FUNDS		532,155	943,797

The notes form part of these financial statements

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 9.11.23 and were signed on its behalf by:

Ms R H Millard OBE - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(326,231)	220,667
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(326,231)	220,667
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(62,365)	(44,091)
Interest received		2	9
Net cash used in investing activities		(62,363)	(44,082)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loan repayments in year		(10,000)	(5,000)
Net cash used in financing activities		(10,000)	(5,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(398,594)	171,585
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		599,988	428,403
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		201,394	599,988

The notes form part of these financial statements

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	**(441,627)**	384,119
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**28,249**	20,753
Interest received	**(2)**	(9)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	**26,016**	(133,190)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**55,339**	(31,493)
Decrease/(increase) in stock	**5,794**	(19,513)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	**(326,231)**	220,667

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.22	Cash flow	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	**599,988**	**(398,594)**	**201,394**
	599,988	**(398,594)**	**201,394**
Debt			
Debts falling due within 1 year	**(10,000)**	-	**(10,000)**
Debts falling due after 1 year	**(35,000)**	**10,000**	**(25,000)**
	(45,000)	**10,000**	**(35,000)**
Total	**554,988**	**(388,594)**	**166,394**

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable group, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the group. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Charity information
Firstsite Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JH.

Significant judgements and estimates
In the application of the group's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Income
Income is recognised when the group is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the group has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

The group occupies a council funded building within Colchester for a peppercorn rent. It has not been possible to ascertain an accurate market rate for inclusion in the financial statements due to the specialist nature of the building provided.

Income from grants is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows;

- when donors specify that grants given to the group must be used in future accounting periods;
- when donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the group becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the preconditions have been met;
- when donors specify that grants are for restricted purposes which do not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds where receivable.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure
Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

Where the costs of charitable activities cannot be directly attributed to a charitable activity they are allocated proportionally between the artistic programme 69% (2022: 74%) and learning and education 31% (2022: 26%).

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant, equipment & auditorium	- 33% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on cost
Office IT	- 25% on cost
Gallery equipment & IT	- 20% on cost

Impairment of fixed assets
At each reporting end date, the group reviews the carrying amount of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Heritage assets
Heritage assets consist of previously donated art. These assets are not depreciated as the value is not considered to diminish. The heritage assets have been valued by an independent valuer for insurance purposes and are included at their insurance value.

Investment property
Investment property is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the SOFA.

Stock
Stock is stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition.

Taxation
Firstsite is an exempt charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011 and as such is a charity within the meaning of Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010. Accordingly, Firstsite is partially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within the categories by Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to its charitable purposes.

Firstsite received no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax. Firstsite is a partially exempt organisation for VAT purposes and consequently input tax on its purchases are not fully recoverable.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the group. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable group's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Going concern
At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Financial Instruments
The group has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. A specific provision is made for debts for which recoverability is in doubt.

Cash at bank and in hand is defined as all cash held in instant access bank accounts and used as working capital. Investments, including those in subsidiary undertakings are held at fair value at the balance sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise all creditors except social security and other taxes, deferred income and provisions.

Employee benefits
The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment or to provide termination benefits.

Operating leases
Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Consolidation
The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the charitable company and its subsidiary. As a consolidated statement of financial activity is published, a separate statement of financial activity for the parent company is omitted from the group financial statements by virtue of section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	79,273	74,823
Grants	1,026,514	1,655,489
	1,105,787	1,730,312

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Arts Council England - core revenue grant	829,514	1,458,489
Essex County Council - core revenue grant	100,000	100,000
Colchester Borough Council - core revenue grant	97,000	97,000
	1,026,514	1,655,489

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Rental income	22,636	23,163
Deposit account interest	2	9
	22,638	23,172

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Learning and education	145,334	36,252
Artistic programme	49,684	444,271
	195,018	480,523

5. RAISING FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	25,632	25,253
Direct trading costs	442,439	301,183
	468,071	326,436

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Learning and education	Artistic programme	Totals
	£	£	£
Direct costs	121,196	288,007	409,203
Staff costs	195,122	430,770	625,892
Support costs (see note 7)	285,676	635,859	921,535
	601,994	1,354,636	1,956,630

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Learning and education	Artistic programme	Totals
	£	£	£
Support costs	269,556	599,980	869,536
Governance costs	16,120	35,879	51,999
	285,676	635,859	921,535

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	Learning and education	Artistic programme	2023 Total activities	2022 Total activities
	£	£	£	£
Wages	97,700	217,463	315,163	429,192
Social security	8,744	19,461	28,205	35,918
Pensions	3,562	7,928	11,490	22,277
Utilities	55,202	122,868	178,070	146,216
Insurance	13,268	29,532	42,800	33,832
Communication	10,552	23,487	34,039	51,959
Office costs	4,845	10,785	15,630	17,011
Recruitment and training	3,728	8,299	12,027	15,975
Building costs	43,335	96,454	139,789	140,650
Computer and telecoms	14,824	32,996	47,820	58,384
Licences and subscriptions	5,039	11,215	16,254	50,112
Bad debts	-	-	-	1,697
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	8,757	19,492	28,249	20,753
Auditors' remuneration – governance	4,290	9,547	13,837	8,624
Accountancy fees – governance	1,958	4,357	6,315	3,090
Legal and professional fees – governance	4,452	9,910	14,362	7,628
Board and committee expenses – governance	487	1,084	1,571	1,689
Bank charges – governance	4,933	10,981	15,914	13,657
	285,676	635,859	921,535	1,058,664

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	13,837	8,624
Accountancy fees	6,315	3,090
Depreciation - owned assets	28,249	20,753

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year.

Trustees' expenses

Four of the trustees were reimbursed a total of £1,571 for travelling expenses (2022: two were reimbursed £199).

10. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	900,137	842,907
Social security costs	74,095	64,346
Other pension costs	32,150	34,308
	1,006,382	941,561

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Directors	13	13
General	58	51
	71	64

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023	2022
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
	1	1

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	1,730,312	-	1,730,312
Charitable activities			
Learning and education	12,438	23,814	36,252
Artistic Programme	27,058	417,213	444,271
Investment income	23,172	-	23,172
Other income	600,553	-	600,553
Total	2,393,533	441,027	2,834,560
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	326,436	-	326,436
Charitable activities			
Learning and education	415,983	115,320	531,303
Artistic Programme	1,357,788	234,914	1,592,702
Total	2,100,207	350,234	2,450,441
NET INCOME	293,326	90,793	384,119
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	420,744	211,218	631,962
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	714,070	302,011	1,016,081

12. PROFIT/(LOSS) OF PARENT COMPANY

As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, the profit and loss of the parent company is not presented as part of these financial statements. The parent company's deficit was £411,642 (2022: Surplus £355,473).

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group

	Plant, equipment & auditorium £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office IT £	Gallery equipment & IT £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2022	216,392	342,942	48,708	411,511	1,019,553
Additions	820	55,816	-	5,729	62,365
At 31 March 2023	217,212	398,758	48,708	417,240	1,081,918
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2022	193,169	338,886	48,708	379,832	960,595
Charge for year	5,165	11,241	-	11,843	28,249
At 31 March 2023	198,334	350,127	48,708	391,675	988,844
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2023	18,878	48,631	-	25,565	93,074
At 31 March 2022	23,223	4,056	-	31,679	58,958

Charity

	Plant, equipment & auditorium £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office IT £	Gallery equipment & IT £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2022	186,311	342,942	48,708	411,511	989,472
Additions	-	55,816	-	5,729	61,545
At 31 March 2023	186,311	398,758	48,708	417,240	1,051,017
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2022	183,202	338,886	48,708	379,832	950,628
Charge for year	66	11,241	-	11,843	23,150
At 31 March 2023	183,268	350,127	48,708	391,675	973,778
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2023	3,043	48,631	-	25,565	77,239
At 31 March 2022	3,109	4,056	-	31,679	38,844

14. HERITAGE ASSETS

Group and Charity

	Total £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	79,400
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	79,400
At 31 March 2022	79,400

The heritage assets comprise of various donated artworks. The fair value of the heritage assets has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out 24 July 2018 by Reeman Danise Limited, who are not connected to the group. The valuation was made for insurance purposes. The Board of Trustees consider that the market value of the heritage assets is not materially different to that stated above.

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Charity

	Shares in group undertakings £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	100
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	100
At 31 March 2022	100

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The charity's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

Firstsite Enterprises Limited
Registered office: Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex, United Kingdom, CO1 1JH.
Nature of business: Trading arm of charity

Class of shares:	% holding
Ordinary	100.00

16. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Group and Charity

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	175,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	175,000
At 31 March 2022	175,000

Investment property comprises the long leasehold of 15 Queen Street, Colchester until the year 2160. Lloyds Bank PLC have a registered charge over the property.

The fair value of the investment property has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out on 11 February 2020 by Morley Riches & Ablewhite Chartered Surveyors, who are not connected with the group. The valuation was made on an open market value basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties. The Board of Trustees consider that the market value of the property is not materially different to that stated above.

17. STOCK

	Group	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Shop stock	38,785	37,426
Bar and café stock	7,461	14,614
	46,246	52,040

18. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	70,489	15,160	54,149	8,024
Amounts due from group undertakings	-	-	72,580	13,364
Other debtors	180,985	258,348	180,428	252,960
Prepayments and accrued income	17,300	21,282	9,115	16,601
	268,774	294,790	316,272	290,949

19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank loans (see note 21)	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Trade creditors	100,913	57,173	64,870	40,620
Other taxes and social security	16,726	18,056	16,592	18,056
Other creditors	6,405	6,643	6,405	6,643
Accruals and deferred income	130,390	117,223	119,421	110,855
	264,434	209,095	217,288	186,174

20. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank loans (see note 21)	25,000	35,000	25,000	35,000

21. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Amounts falling due between one and two years:				
Bank loans - 1-2 years	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Amounts falling due between two and five years:				
Bank loans - 2-5 years	25,000	35,000	25,000	35,000

The loan was taken out in September 2020 for a term of 72 months to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. It will be repaid in equal instalments of £833 a month at a fixed interest rate of 2.5%. The amount is not secured over any of the group's assets.

22. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	**2023**	2022
	£	£	**£**	£
Within one year	**3,669**	1,639	**969**	1,639
Between one and five years	**2,264**	1,640	**14**	1,640
	5,933	3,279	**983**	3,279

23. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Group

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**2023 Total funds**	2022 Total funds
	£	£	**£**	£
Fixed assets	**93,074**	**79,400**	**172,474**	138,358
Investments	**175,000**	-	**175,000**	175,000
Current assets	**228,919**	**287,495**	**516,414**	946,818
Current liabilities	**(213,234)**	**(51,200)**	**(264,434)**	(209,095)
Long term liabilities	**(25,000)**	-	**(25,000)**	(35,000)
	258,759	**315,695**	**574,454**	1,016,081

Charity

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**2023 Total funds**	2022 Total funds
	£	£	**£**	£
Fixed assets	**77,239**	**79,400**	**156,639**	118,244
Investments	**175,100**	-	**175,100**	175,100
Current assets	**155,209**	**287,495**	**442,704**	871,627
Current liabilities	**(166,088)**	**(51,200)**	**(217,288)**	(186,174)
Long term liabilities	**(25,000)**	-	**(25,000)**	(35,000)
	216,460	**315,695**	**532,155**	943,797

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Group

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	714,070	(430,380)	(86,059)	197,631
Designated - Museum of the Year	-	-	61,128	61,128
	714,070	(430,380)	(24,931)	258,759
Restricted funds				
Artwork fund	79,400	-	-	79,400
Collectors Group - Artists Support	19,815	(1,142)	-	18,673
Tate - Circuit	437	-	-	437
Refugee Action Restaurant	1,912	-	-	1,912
The Britishness Project	9,472	-	-	9,472
Royal Opera House	1,060	-	-	1,060
Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust	2,000	-	-	2,000
Youth Music	8,132	-	-	8,132
Percil Bilton Charity	500	-	-	500
New Geographies - Wysing	(8,151)	-	-	(8,151)
Garfield Weston Lighting	31,444	-	-	31,444
Arts Council Collection	(10,639)	(10,882)	4,045	(17,476)
Holiday Fun	5,214	(23,377)	-	(18,163)
Black Essex	20,493	-	-	20,493
Art Fund	6,969	-	-	6,969
NHS Covid Project	30,000	-	-	30,000
Art Fund & BBC Commissioning	10,000	-	-	10,000
Holiday Fund Easter 21	7,458	-	-	7,458
The Great Big Art Exhibition	2,080	(263)	-	1,817
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	62,241	(1,355)	-	60,886
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	18,586	(11,818)	-	6,768
Other	3,588	-	-	3,588
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	-	(18)	-	(18)
Lighting Project (SCA)	-	-	20,886	20,886
Lighting Project (ACE)	-	(7,392)	-	(7,392)
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	-	45,000	-	45,000
	302,011	(11,247)	24,931	315,695
TOTAL FUNDS	1,016,081	(441,627)	-	574,454

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds for the group, included in the above, are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,824,200	(2,254,580)	(430,380)
Restricted funds			
Collectors Group - Artists Support	7,614	(8,756)	(1,142)
Arts Council Collection	28,150	(39,032)	(10,882)
Holiday Fun	77,555	(100,932)	(23,377)
The Great Big Art Exhibition	-	(263)	(263)
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	-	(1,355)	(1,355)
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	-	(11,818)	(11,818)
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	555	(573)	(18)
Lighting Project (ACE)	-	(7,392)	(7,392)
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	45,000	-	45,000
	158,874	(170,121)	(11,247)
TOTAL FUNDS	1,983,074	(2,424,701)	(441,627)

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Charity

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	641,786	(400,395)	(86,059)	155,332
Designated - Museum of the Year	-	-	61,128	61,128
	641,786	(400,395)	(24,931)	216,460
Restricted funds				
Artwork fund	79,400	-	-	79,400
Collectors Group - Artists Support	19,815	(1,142)	-	18,673
Tate - Circuit	437	-	-	437
Refugee Action Restaurant	1,912	-	-	1,912
The Britishness Project	9,472	-	-	9,472
Royal Opera House	1,060	-	-	1,060
Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust	2,000	-	-	2,000
Youth Music	8,132	-	-	8,132
Percil Bilton Charity	500	-	-	500
New Geographies - Wysing	(8,151)	-	-	(8,151)
Garfield Weston Lighting	31,444	-	-	31,444
Arts Council Collection	(10,639)	(10,882)	4,045	(17,476)
Holiday Fun	5,214	(23,377)	-	(18,163)
Black Essex	20,493	-	-	20,493
Art Fund	6,969	-	-	6,969
NHS Covid Project	30,000	-	-	30,000
Art Fund & BBC Commissioning	10,000	-	-	10,000
Holiday Fund Easter 21	7,458	-	-	7,458
The Great Big Art Exhibition	2,080	(263)	-	1,817
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	62,241	(1,355)	-	60,886
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	18,586	(11,818)	-	6,768
Other	3,588	-	-	3,588
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	-	(18)	-	(18)
Lighting Project (SCA)	-	-	20,886	20,886
Lighting Project (ACE)	-	(7,392)	-	(7,392)
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	-	45,000	-	45,000
	302,011	(11,247)	24,931	315,695
TOTAL FUNDS	943,797	(411,642)	-	532,155

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds for the charity, included in the above, are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,824,200	(2,254,580)	(430,380)
Restricted funds			
Collectors Group - Artists Support	7,614	(8,756)	(1,142)
Arts Council Collection	28,150	(39,032)	(10,882)
Holiday Fun	77,555	(100,932)	(23,377)
The Great Big Art Exhibition	-	(263)	(263)
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	-	(1,355)	(1,355)
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	-	(11,818)	(11,818)
Kew Gardens - Grow Wild	555	(573)	(18)
Lighting Project (ACE)	-	(7,392)	(7,392)
Art Fund - Reimagine - Holiday Fun	45,000	-	45,000
	158,874	(170,121)	(11,247)
TOTAL FUNDS	1,983,074	(2,424,701)	(441,627)

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Group

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	420,744	293,326	714,070
Restricted funds			
Artwork fund	79,400	-	79,400
Collectors Group - Artists Support	24,033	(4,218)	19,815
Tate - Circuit	437	-	437
Refugee Action Restaurant	1,912	-	1,912
The Britishness Project	9,472	-	9,472
Royal Opera House	1,094	(34)	1,060
Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust	2,000	-	2,000
Youth Music	8,755	(623)	8,132
Percil Bilton Charity	500	-	500
New Geographies - Wysing	(8,151)	-	(8,151)
Garfield Weston Lighting	34,694	(3,250)	31,444
Arts Council Collection	(10,983)	344	(10,639)
Holiday Fun	(442)	5,656	5,214
Black Essex	23,289	(2,796)	20,493
Art Fund	6,969	-	6,969
NHS Covid Project	30,000	-	30,000
Art Fund & BBC Commissioning	10,000	-	10,000
Holiday Fund Easter 21	11,893	(4,435)	7,458
The Great Big Art Exhibition	(17,247)	19,327	2,080
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	-	62,241	62,241
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	-	18,586	18,586
Other	3,593	(5)	3,588
	211,218	90,793	302,011
TOTAL FUNDS	631,962	384,119	1,016,081

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds for the group, included in the above, are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,393,533	(2,100,207)	293,326
Restricted funds			
Collectors Group - Artists Support	5,869	(10,087)	(4,218)
Royal Opera House	-	(34)	(34)
Youth Music	3,000	(3,623)	(623)
Garfield Weston Lighting	-	(3,250)	(3,250)
Arts Council Collection	170,000	(169,656)	344
Holiday Fun	101,558	(95,902)	5,656
Black Essex	-	(2,796)	(2,796)
Holiday Fund Easter 21	-	(4,435)	(4,435)
The Great Big Art Exhibition	44,100	(24,773)	19,327
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	65,000	(2,759)	62,241
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	31,500	(12,914)	18,586
Ampersand Michael Landy	20,000	(20,000)	-
Other	-	(5)	(5)
	441,027	(350,234)	90,793
TOTAL FUNDS	2,834,560	(2,450,441)	384,119

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Charity

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	377,106	264,680	641,786
Restricted funds			
Artwork fund	79,400	-	79,400
Collectors Group - Artists Support	24,033	(4,218)	19,815
Tate - Circuit	437	-	437
Refugee Action Restaurant	1,912	-	1,912
The Britishness Project	9,472	-	9,472
Royal Opera House	1,094	(34)	1,060
Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust	2,000	-	2,000
Youth Music	8,755	(623)	8,132
Percil Bilton Charity	500	-	500
New Geographies - Wysing	(8,151)	-	(8,151)
Garfield Weston Lighting	34,694	(3,250)	31,444
Arts Council Collection	(10,983)	344	(10,639)
Holiday Fun	(442)	5,656	5,214
Black Essex	23,289	(2,796)	20,493
Art Fund	6,969	-	6,969
NHS Covid Project	30,000	-	30,000
Art Fund & BBC Commissioning	10,000	-	10,000
Holiday Fund Easter 21	11,893	(4,435)	7,458
The Great Big Art Exhibition	(17,247)	19,327	2,080
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	-	62,241	62,241
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	-	18,586	18,586
Other	3,593	(5)	3,588
	211,218	90,793	302,011
TOTAL FUNDS	588,324	355,473	943,797

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds for the charity, included in the above, are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,014,925	(1,750,245)	264,680
Restricted funds			
Collectors Group - Artists Support	5,869	(10,087)	(4,218)
Royal Opera House	-	(34)	(34)
Youth Music	3,000	(3,623)	(623)
Garfield Weston Lighting	-	(3,250)	(3,250)
Arts Council Collection	170,000	(169,656)	344
Holiday Fun	101,558	(95,902)	5,656
Black Essex	-	(2,796)	(2,796)
Holiday Fund Easter 21	-	(4,435)	(4,435)
The Great Big Art Exhibition	44,100	(24,773)	19,327
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)	65,000	(2,759)	62,241
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine	31,500	(12,914)	18,586
Ampersand Michael Landy	20,000	(20,000)	-
Other	-	(5)	(5)
	441,027	(350,234)	90,793
TOTAL FUNDS	2,455,952	(2,100,479)	355,473

25. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund.

The charge to the statement of financial activity in respect of defined contribution schemes was £32,150 (2022: £34,307).

26. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The investment property, 15 Queen Street, was purchased with the aid of a grant. The terms of this grant state that in the event of a sale the group may have to repay the donor their share of the net proceeds. Should the property be sold for its current net book value, the group may be required to repay £100,000.

27. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the current financial year, the charity used the resources of Brikett Long LLP for legal advice. One of the Trustees is a Partner in the entity. Transactions were carried out in the usual course of business on commercial terms. Total fees amounted to £2,339 for the full year.

Remuneration of key management personnel
Remuneration of key management personnel is as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	181,675	68,680

28. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Artwork Fund
This relates to works of art donated to the gallery, which are held as heritage assets.

Collectors Group Artist Support
Funds raised by the Collectors' Group through Membership fees and special events to be used to support artists with the Collectors Group annual bursary awards and to contribute to Firstsite exhibition fundraising projects.

Refugee Action Restaurant (The Peoples Postcode Lottery)
Working with Syrian Refugee Community, providing facilities to enable people to mix, developing transferable skills & achieving qualifications.

Britishness Project
Supporting Learning & Education activities working with young people across Essex in a variety of educational settings to produce a set of works both authored and created by young people from national collections which give a high-profile platform for young people's interpretations of British Values Britishness.

Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust Retail
Donations to support the commissioning of artist merchandise for sales in the gallery shop.

28. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

Youth Music
To expand young people's musical understanding, expression and skills including improvisation, experimentation, listening, composition and performance and developing technical skills in the use of digital technology and software. The project supports participants in engaging with, and collaborating with, a range of other community groups and develop their emotional and psychological capabilities particularly confidence, empathy, self-awareness and creativity.

New Geographies-Wysing Arts
The East Contemporary Visual Arts Network (ECVAN) launched New Geographies in May 2018, a three-year partnership between nine arts organisations in the East of England. ECVAN asked people to nominate overlooked or unexpected places in the region that they find meaningful and interesting to them. The exhibition that was produced in collaboration with artist Susan Pui San Lok focussed upon the persecution of men and women in Essex who were branded as witches. This project continues but was delayed owing to lockdown, the deficit is due to this delay and timing differences, a further funding payment is due later in 2023.

Garfield Weston Foundation
Firstsite was awarded part funding to support a lighting renewal programme within the gallery areas of the building. These funds are due to be utilised in 2023.

Arts Council Collection - National Partners Programme
The final year of a three-year funded programme by Arts Council England's National Contemporary Art Collection. The programme consists of several exhibitions that are co-curated by community groups in Colchester, which explores their experiences of life in the United Kingdom, be it cultural, social or political. It explores and challenges widely held perceptions about identity and diversity. Exhibitions include content produced in partnership with community groups and drawing upon the extensive national collection of contemporary art held by Arts Council England. In addition, Black Essex Funds and the NHS COVID Project part fund the project as a part of the matched funding requirement from the funder.

Holiday Fun
This programme is open to all families, but especially those who access support with free school meals. The project consists of a canteen offering a selection of hot food, art activities, engagement and sport activities run by trained coaches during the school holidays. During the financial year the project has been funded by Essex Community Fund, Essex Community Foundation, Arts Council, Tendring Community, Essex Association, Community 360 and Active Essex.

Black Essex
Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, the Black Essex exhibition represents a positive assertion of 'black artists' working presence in the UK. Raising the profile of their artistic dignity, inventive use of a visual language reflecting the artists experiences of living and working in a society in which a person with black skin is often considered inferior.

Art Fund
A small project grant to support a collaborative touring project across Art Council England's National Partners Programme, with programme partners Newlyn and Sunderland Contemporary Art Galleries.

28. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

NHS Covid Project - Art for Life
A fund from the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group who approached Firstsite to make a project that recorded the COVID-19 experiences of NHS key workers. The project started with a simple question: 'Tell us about your experience of the pandemic'. Artist-led workshops with participating key workers supported by an NHS art psychotherapist, will form the context of the exhibition and will include artworks loaned from the Arts Council Collection.

The Great Art Exhibition
Funded by Arts Council Collection, Firstsite created a national digital art exhibition online. The artworks are created by members of the public based around themes. The project required development of our website to enable thousands of artworks to be viewed online.

Art Fund - Culture In Quarantine
A project to support Art Fund and the BBC in the R&D period towards a 'Culture in Quarantine' landmark art commission. Firstsite was part of a project team alongside in Art Fund and BBC Provide Advice and Insight. The project will continue and Firstsite will collaborate on a prospect list of artists; manage the relationship with the artists, support with delivering initial ideas to put forward to the project team.

Ampersand - Michael Landy
Funding from Ampersand to support the Michael Landy 'Welcome to Essex' exhibition that explores the urban myths, received wisdoms and blatant stereotypes about the county of his birth, Essex. Landy has produced a series of ambitious new commissions based on the history of Essex, and his fascination with the county's contemporary portrayal in popular culture. Welcome to Essex links the past and present by underlying how modern-day Essex has been shaped by Thatcherism (Margaret Thatcher once resided in Colchester and first joined the Conservative Party there) and how the Essex stereotype is reinforced by the media and TV shows as Birds of a Feather and The Only Way Is Essex.

Art Fund - Digital Respond & Re-Imagine
A project to provide the funds to promote the development of digital production skills to produce online content for upcoming exhibitions, to include audio/video recordings, online talks, tours and workshops.

Arts Council England Culture Recovery Fund
Funding for capital improvements to enable accessibility to the Firstsite building by providing ramp access to the historic Berryfield lawn from the main veranda and giving access to the cafe area.

Kew Gardens – Grow Wild Youth Project
A project funded by Kew Garden's youth programme Grow Wild. The aim was to connect Colchester to the natural world through foraging, folklore and art.

Lighting Project SCA (Garfield Weston)
Funding for capital improvements to improve the building's lighting infrastructure and reduce environmental impact.

Lighting Project (ACE)
Arts Council England Investment Programme, will support cultural organisations to adjust buildings and equipment so that they can operate safely post-pandemic and improve access, seize on technological opportunities and reduce environmental impact.

28. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

Art Fund - Reimagine
This programme is open to all families, but especially those who access support with free school meals. The project consists of a canteen offering a selection of hot nutritious food, art, engagement and sport activities run by trained coaches during the school holidays. During the financial year, the purpose of the project is to reimagine how we can significantly continue to engage and deepen our relationship with families, through increasing the regularity of the programme, to enable families to have access to free creative activities and a fun creative day out together during the most difficult months immediately after Christmas and into Spring.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1031800

Accounts

Charity registration number 1031800

Company registration number 2884347 (England and Wales)

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

WHITTLES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr G C Armitage	
	Mr T Field	
	Ms R Millard OBE	
	Mr R A Polom	
	Ms C Francis	
	Ms D Leacock	
	Ms S Pui San Lok	
	Mr P Tibber	
	Mr A Garnett	(Appointed 28 March 2022)
	Mr J Harvey	(Appointed 1 March 2022)
	Mr D Rosenberg	(Appointed 28 March 2022)
	Cllr J Young	(Appointed 4 March 2022)
	Mr M Durham	
Charity number	1031800	
Company number	2884347	
Registered office	Lewis Gardens High Street Colchester Essex CO1 1JH	
Auditors	Whittles Whittle & Partners LLP The Old Exchange 64 West Stockwell Street Colchester Essex CO1 1HE	
Solicitors	Ellisons Headgate Court Head Street Colchester Essex CO1 1NP	

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Bankers

HSBC
26 High Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1DG

CCLA Investment Management Limited
COIF Charity Funds
80 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6DZ

Lloyds Bank
22 High Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1DU

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONTENTS

	Page
Chair's statement	1 - 2
Trustees report	3 - 11
Statement of Trustees responsibilities	12
Independent auditor's report	13 - 16
Consolidated Statement of financial activities	17 - 18
Consolidated Balance sheet	19
Charity Balance sheet	20
Consolidated statement of cash flows	21
Notes to the accounts	22 - 41

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

As with last year, the first thoughts must be with colleagues, members of staff and stakeholders who may have been grievously affected by Coronavirus, to anyone who has been bereaved and to anyone who has suffered long-term effects. And as with 2021, the effort from the whole Firstsite team to continue working and keep the gallery not only open but thriving through and after the ravages of the pandemic have been and was remarkable.

We were closed until May 2021 but after this point, Firstsite has flourished. The first, and most significant achievement this year is undoubtedly the competing in, and winning Museum of the Year 2021. This national award, delivered by the Art Fund, is the world's largest single museum prize and is worth £100,000 and generating in the region of £1.2m of positive press for Colchester. Previous winners include the V&A and the Museum of Modern Art in Edinburgh. At the award ceremony the judges pointed to our outstanding community work, particularly Holiday Fun, and our agility through the pandemic, delivering ingenious solutions to lockdown such as the 'Art Is Where The Home Is' Activity Packs which went out digitally to tens of thousands of households across the UK and beyond.

The win secured national coverage on TV, radio, online and print and increased footfall in the gallery.

The exhibition programme at Firstsite continued to be remarkable, of extremely high quality and very accessible – in particular we are seeing an increase in visitors from black and minority ethnic audiences from 9% pre-pandemic to 12.3% which is double the regional average. Our presentation of works from the Great Big Art Exhibition, with work created by members of the public, continued on the themes of 'Colour' and 'Imagine the Future' and Performance. The main exhibition this spring was Michael Landy's 'Welcome to Essex', a provocative and brilliant survey of Britain's most misunderstood county - also generating approximately £737,500 positive press for the region. This included a mural on our wonderful exhibition wall, giant tarpaulins daubed with incendiary tabloid headlines and artefacts "found" in the Essex clay. A short film also called Welcome to Essex, which explored why Essex has been maligned and the background of Michael Landy ran in the gallery and on You Tube to great acclaim.

Our exhibiting of the Arts Council Collection continued into its final tranche, with Art for Life selected by NHS carers. The three years that we hosted highlights of the Collection has been a huge success with many different sectors of the Colchester community curating a series of exhibitions.

'Life With Art: Benton End and the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing' was presented at Firstsite from December 2021 to April 2022. This beautiful and acclaimed exhibition gave an overview to the radical and visionary school founded at Benton End by the artists Cedric Morris and Arthur Lett-Haines, who ran an arts school in the 16th century house and a devised an important botanical collection in its beautiful surrounding gardens. Throughout the 1940s and 50s, Benton End became the centre of a diverse community of twentieth-century artists, writers and gardeners including Lucien Freud, John Nash and Stephen Spender. The exhibition at Firstsite displayed many significant works and also included creative workshops inspired by the spirit of Benton End. You could also draw your own artwork and have it displayed alongside the paintings from the era – this invitation to the public to get creative has generated over 2000 drawings by people from the area displayed at Firstsite. The galleries were specially repainted in historical colours connected to Benton End and the whole effect was an overwhelming multi-sensory experience which achieved national acclaim and great visitor figures.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHAIR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Community programmes at Firstsite during 2021 included Holiday Fun, delivered in every school holiday including the in Christmas period for the first time. This vital programme connecting families to our exceptional artists and exhibitions has now given away in excess of 13,000 free meals and generated over 40,000 participations from people who are amongst the least likely to engage in contemporary art.

Other events within the gallery include The Festival of Rice and Spice, Pride, Christmas skating and a Women's Conference. We showed contemporary work from the Bloomberg New Contemporaries survey and continued our engagement with background bob. Julian Opie's sculptural cars wowed visitors in the forecourt and Sarah Lucas' giant courgettes 'Kevin and Florian' engaged visitors in our lovely garden. Firstsite's 10th anniversary fete saw a Ferris Wheel outside the gallery, from which delighted children and adults saw the roof of Firstsite, a rare and wonderful architectural experience.

I would like to thank Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council for their continued support for Firstsite with special thanks to Essex County Council for a newly invigorated round of funding confirmed for the next four years and likewise Colchester Borough Council – remarkable support in difficult times. Thanks, too, to the Arts Council of England for its continued support – especially with regards emergency funding during these exceptional times. We reopened in May 2021 in a position of strength and have been able to present an acclaimed and successful programme straightaway. Thanks also goes to our audiences for keeping faith with the gallery, and for coming back, particularly as we have a beautiful fresh new café overlooking the fields at the back of the site.

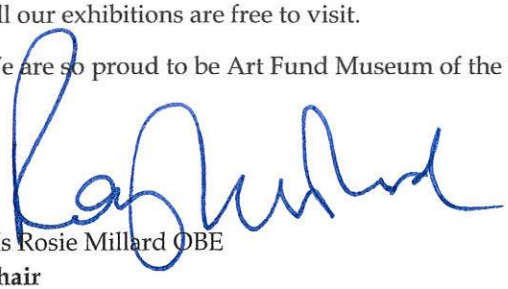
I would also like to thank the dedicated and talented staff of Firstsite, and my esteemed colleagues on the Board who have worked so hard and taken part in many zoom meetings to ensure that Firstsite could meet the Covid challenge with ingenuity and integrity.

Lastly, of course I must thank our Director Sally Shaw MBE who has steered our beautiful golden crescent throughout the vicissitudes of the pandemic with imagination and courage, so that we have re-emerged stronger and more focused on serving our community with equity and quality.

97% of our visitors rated us Very Good or Good for giving them a quality experience.

All our exhibitions are free to visit.

We are so proud to be Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021!



Ms Rosie Millard OBE
Chair

Date: 11 August 2022

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the group's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's object and its principal activity is to promote the arts in society, in particular the visual and media arts, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Colchester in particular and the surrounding area in East Anglia in general by developing public appreciation of the arts and by improving public access to and the quality of the arts. The organisation is a national leader in commissioning contemporary art, exhibiting it in the organisation's building and providing innovative new learning opportunities for the public to understand and appreciate new and existing art.

The charity's objective is to increase its reach into the community with a programme of exhibited artwork and associated learning activities. The strategy for the artistic programme is to exhibit artwork that includes new art that engages with a broad audience, show work from established artists and to produce innovative exhibitions. The learning programme's aims are to find appropriate and interesting ways to engage with hard to reach sections of the community, attract school visits to exhibitions and artist led workshops and to encourage more members of the community to participate in creative activity.

Vision

Creative Change - We help lots of diverse people see themselves in the world differently, we provide creative opportunities that make a difference when and where needed most and we promote imaginative responses to contemporary issues

Mission

At Firstsite and in our satellite venues, we show a diverse mix of the very best historic, modern and contemporary art from around the world, free for everyone, every day.

Values

Inclusion: equality of access and opportunity combined with best practice to help engage with our audiences, artists, community groups, partners, suppliers and staff.

Quality: the use of analytics to help us continuously improve customer experience and how we work and make decisions, to ensure we make measureable impacts.

Innovation: working collaboratively with our stakeholders, partners and funders to ensure we are continuously looking for better ways of working and achieving higher returns on investment.

Professionalism: adopting best practice in all that we do to ensure that we are well governed, well managed and seen as an effective asset for the communities we serve.

Our business plan - Creative Together - has been extended by an additional year to encompass the second year of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Our core funding from Arts Council England and Colchester Borough Council continued at their existing amounts and our Essex County Council funding was re-established as our new funding agreement was confirmed, the previous 12.5 year agreement having concluded successfully the previous financial year.

Throughout the financial year 2021/22 Firstsite continued to navigate the challenges of Covid-19, reopening in May 2021 and then addressing further uncertainties over the Christmas period and as government restrictions have gradually eased. This has been another strong year with no redundancies as a result of the pandemic and audiences returning ahead of national levels as a result of our Museum of the Year success and our excellent programming.

The following report provides an assessment of our progress against our headline goals and KPIs.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the group should undertake.

In deciding the charity's work over the course of the year the Trustees have complied with the duty in s17 Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Achievements and performance

1. Be a radical and outstanding art gallery

KPI: Deliver four headline exhibitions that draw in internationally significant partners and artists as well as supporting emerging and regional talent.

One of our long-term goals has been to be recognised nationally and internationally for our excellent artistic and cultural offer. In September 2021 after a summer campaign, Firstsite was named the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021. This is the largest single prize for a museum or gallery in Europe. Firstsite was recognised for its on-going work to involve communities and individuals who are often under-represented or overlooked by art galleries and for our exceptional response to the global pandemic.

Alongside the Museum of the Year campaign, Firstsite has delivered an exceptional programme of exhibitions including Michael Landy's 'Welcome to Essex', 'Life With Art: Benton End and the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing', our programme of outdoor sculptures and our continued programme of Arts Council Collection National Partners Exhibitions including 'Art for Life' and 'Keep Being Amazing'.

2. Bring lots of different people together to enjoy art and culture

KPI: Increase audience footfall from 131,000 in 2018/19 to 145,000 in 2020/21

There is a national challenge in that there is a consistent 15% 'gap' in audiences across the sector comprised of people who would previously have attended who are still keeping away because of COVID-19. Despite this, we have been consistently busier - in terms of returning to pre-pandemic levels – than all the major national museums in London. Overall we achieved footfall of 84,268. Taking our daily average into account and, had we been open for the full year, we would have achieved 95,265 which would have been 67% of our pre-pandemic levels. Our daily average has been just below 70%.

We have maintained restricted seating in the cinema throughout the year, as our visitors have requested this of us. Our café has been a refuge for many people, and our bright open spaces have proven to be a sanctuary for the community of Colchester and East Anglia as people have gradually returned to a semblance of normality. Our Christmas offer has been successful again, although the Omicron variant took its toll and made planning and communications difficult.

3. Be bold in improving diversity and inclusion

KPI: Increase levels of diversity in the artistic programme to a minimum of 50% per year, in our audiences to reflect national levels and likewise in our Board and our staff including volunteers to reflect national levels.

We have maintained our commitment to ensuring that 50% of artists in our core programme are from protected characteristic groups. We have also seen significant levels of diversity within our audiences.

On average we maintain levels of black and minority ethnic communities in our audiences at around 12-15% which is double the regional average and between 3-6% higher than the local population. At times this has risen to 20.9%.

We have also successfully increased the diversity of the Firstsite team with 9 appointments from protected characteristic groups. Our Volunteers have all increased in terms of introducing greater levels of diversity. Our volunteers are 6.3% more diverse in terms of ethnicity, 6.7% (almost double) in terms of disability, 6.1% in terms of neurodiversity and 6.3% in terms of those who identify as LGBTQI+

Lastly, with our Board appointments we increased the gender balance to 50% male and female with relatively high levels of low socio-economic living experience represented across the group with the senior management team included in this.

One of the areas we are struggling to regain previous levels of attendance with is in relation to our disabled visitors who have not returned in the same numbers as prior to the pandemic. We will address this in the coming financial year.

4. Champion the needs of Children and Young People

KPI: Increase the number of children and young people in Colchester and surrounding wards especially those from protected characteristic groups engaging with art and culture by delivering at least 100 sessions and connecting with 40 schools.

We have continued our Holiday Fun programme throughout the financial year 2021/22 in every school holiday with the addition of Christmas. We have now provided over 14,000 meals to date since 2017 and in excess of 10,000 participations within this financial year alone.

We have appointed a new Co-ordinator for schools visits and numbers of attendances are beginning to rise again as restrictions have been lifted. In the year, we saw 46 schools visiting across the year and one digital session. This amounts to 1991 students visiting Firstsite during the period. This is higher than prior to Covid.

Firstsite is collaborating with the Mercury, the Arts Centre and the Museums on the re-establishing of the Local Cultural Education Partnership. This will enable better links between schools, educators and cultural organisations in Colchester.

5. Be financially resilient and share our resources

Strategic Objective: Successfully apply to the Arts Council England National Portfolio to confirm core funding for the next four years.

Firstsite has concluded the financial year in a strong position having increased its reserves and generated considerable income through a range of trusts and foundations and emergency grants - the largest of which being through the Arts Council Culture Recovery Fund (all outlined below). Expenditure has also increased due to delivering additional projects such as the sculpture park; this is reflected in an increased contribution from Exhibition Tax Relief, also noted below.

Throughout the year, we have managed - despite losing 1.5 months to COVID-19 closures, to deliver on all our Arts Council England, Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council objectives, whilst also bringing extensive positive attention to the region through winning Art Fund Museum of the Year. We have also continued to share our resources with community groups with the priority being to ensure our building is a place of safety and sanctuary for as many people as possible as the pandemic restrictions have eased.

6. Be excellent in our Governance and management

Headline KPI: Reduce Firstsite's overall organisational risk ratio from 0.6 in 2017/18 to 0.4 by 2021/22 by continuously assessing immediate and long-term risk and improving mitigation plans.

All organisations in the Arts Council's National Portfolio have been exposed to increased levels of risk due to the pandemic. However, Firstsite has navigated this risk especially well in this financial year, coming out the other side of the pandemic in many ways in a much stronger position than we went in. This is down to our creative agility and our organisational resilience - developed over the several years it has taken to steer Firstsite towards more stable ground.

This is a very good position to be in, however the year ahead presents potentially more risk as we emerge from the pandemic and exceptional resources are no longer there to support us. In response we have been developing a new vision, mission and goals alongside a new Business Plan for the next 5 years, which will draw together and galvanise our strengths whilst seeking to let go of activity we no longer feel is appropriate. This will be used to re-apply to Arts Council England for National Portfolio status. Alongside we are also developing a new Risk Register and Impact Dashboard to be better informed of the new landscape post-Covid and ensure we continue to have impact for our audiences and communities.

During this time, we have also used our Museum of the year success to recruit four new Trustees to return our Board membership to the full 14 seats. The skills new trustees bring are in the built environment, digital and local schools and families. We have also re-instigated quarterly review meetings with all key stakeholders to return to 'normal' levels of communications on key areas of activity.

Financial review

The charitable company continues to endeavour to implement its risk management strategy and reserves policy in line with its business planning for the full operation of the building and the carrying out of its charitable objectives. The policy is to have 3 months of expenditure covered by unrestricted reserves at any time and the trustees are working towards achieving this.

2021/22 was a period of financial uncertainty because of the Covid-19 pandemic, following the lifting of compulsory closures Firstsite was able to open its building to the public on the 17th May 2021, this being 10.5 months out of the 12- month financial period. The accumulated consolidated surplus in the unrestricted fund account as of 31 March 2022 was £714,070 (2021 £420,744) and there were restricted funds of £302,011 (2021 £211,219). During the financial period, Firstsite received financial support in the form of emergency funding of £20,881 from the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Firstsite Enterprises Ltd received £24,000 Covid Business grants from the local authority.

Income from restricted activity increased by £246,366 (2022 £441,027 - 2021 £194,661) from the prior year and more reflects the income achieved in the 2019/20 financial year which was largely unaffected by the effects of the Covid-19 restrictions. Funding from the Arts Council Collection continued for the final year of the 3-year project (£170,000). Funding was available to support community projects, such as Holiday Fun and develop our digital capacity, which amounted to £133,058, Holiday Fun & Artfund digital respond.

The trading activities of the group are carried out by Firstsite Enterprises Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary, whose results are included in these consolidated financial statements. The trading activity was negatively impacted by the pandemic due to initial closure early in the year periods with low audience levels to the building and social distancing requirements limiting what we normally offer. The Christmas trading period was severely affected by increasing Omicron infections that resulted in cancellations to our planned Christmas activities. There was a gross operating in-year profit on trading activity amounting to £4,399 before the receipt of £24,000 (2020/21 £34,892) in Covid trading grants during the year (2020/21: profit £3,183).

Income from both unrestricted and restricted sources increased from the prior year by £939,869. (2021/22 £2,834,560, 2020/21 £1,894,691) Income included for trading Covid grants (£24,000) and claims under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (£20,881). When these funds are excluded from the income total the overall increase in income from the prior year amounted to £894,988. This was mostly attributable to being awarded The Museum of the Year prize (£100,000), funding from Essex County Council (£100,000) increases in restricted income from trusts and foundations (£246,366), increased trading from Firstsite Enterprises Ltd (£239,924) (2021/22 £331,445 - 2020/21 £91,521) and increases in other unrestricted income sources such talks and classes. We have invested the Covid-19 trading grants to Firstsite Enterprises Ltd to develop our café and restaurant. The activities that we have produced have been well received and with the development of our digital programme, we have reached a wider audience. We have demonstrated that we can deliver high quality exhibitions and projects for our audiences, both during and after lockdown.

Total resources expended increased from the prior year by £818,947, (2021/22 £2,450,441 - 2020/21 £1,631,494), this increase is reflective of the increased activity in the building during the year. Of this increase, £84,936 (2021/22 £350,234 - 2020/21 £265,298) relates to activity associated with restricted projects, £734,011 relating to increases in operating, and exhibition costs.

Tangible net fixed assets increased by £23,337 (2021/22 £58,958 - 2020/21 £35,621) from the prior financial year and this movement in assets reflects the depreciation charge based upon the Charity's accounting policies, IT equipment replacement and costs of the access ramp.

Debtors include for £100,000 income accrual for Essex County Council grant, £5,000 of deferred costs to the Holiday Fun programme held in April 2022. Included within debtors is £137,611 (2020/21: £35,431) in respect to Exhibition Tax Relief claim that is made post year-end. The relief rate increased with effect from 27th October 2021 to 45% for non-touring exhibitions

Creditors falling due within one year included £50,000 of deferred income grants from Arts Council Collection Workforce grant. It also includes for £10,000 recognising Firstsite's liability to pay within a year part of the £50,000 Bounce Back loan, which has a 6-year term.

During this financial year Firstsite was awarded £692,625 funding in response to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic to support re-opening in 2021.This funding was from and was round two of the Culture Recovery Funding scheme. Of the total funding £65,000 is to support capital works to improve building accessibility and £246,048 was to reflate reserves using a predefined grant formula, the remaining £381,577 is to support core operational activity for the period up to December 2022.

In addition, during the year Firstsite has been awarded £696,525 funding from the Arts Council England Capital Investment Programme totalling £792,034 that will commence in the 2022/23 year. The programme will support Firstsite to adjust the building and equipment so that they can operate safely post-pandemic, improve access, seize on technological opportunities, and reduce environmental impact. Firstsite gratefully acknowledges funding from Garfield Weston, The Coode Adams Trust, Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council enabling Firstsite to access the Arts Council England Investment Programme.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In addition, the Trustees consider other risks to the continuance of Firstsite as an artistic learning and viewing venue. The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, include the financial position and facilities available, have been reviewed and a system has been established to mitigate those risks. The Trustees continue to work closely with the major sponsors of Firstsite to ensure common objectives and activities are achieved to ensure continued support.

Structure, governance and management

The group is a company limited by guarantee.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr G C Armitage	
Mr T Field	
Ms R Millard OBE	
Mr R A Polom	
Ms C Francis	
Ms D Leacock	
Ms S Pui San Lok	
Mr P Tibber	
Ms J Young	(Resigned 7 May 2021)
Mr A Garnett	(Appointed 28 March 2022)
Mr J Harvey	(Appointed 1 March 2022)
Mr D Rosenberg	(Appointed 28 March 2022)
Cllr J Young	(Appointed 4 March 2022)
Mr M Durham	

Trustees are recruited via an agreed procedure:

1. Establish and agree the competencies required;

2. Advertise the positions via Firstsite's website and other appropriate media and invite other applicants;

3. Carry out a paper short-listing exercise comparing experience and qualifications etc., against the preferred criteria;

4. Carry out structured, competency-based interviews with members of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee and the Chair of the Managing Board and score the evidence against the pre-determined rating scale. Follow up with competency based references;

5. Arrange a meeting of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee to decide on the successful candidates;

6. Put forward the names of successful candidates to a meeting of the Board of Trustees for formal approval.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees undergo a period of training to brief them on their legal obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisational Structure
The Board of Trustees meets at least quarterly to review the policy, strategy and medium and long term planning needs of the organisation.

The Finance and Enterprise Committee meets regularly with the Finance Director and Director to ensure that the organisation is focused on the Business Plan priorities whilst managing risks proactively.

A Company Secretary role is appointed from amongst the Trustees to help continually develop our governance arrangements ensuring we adhere to best practice. Firstsite has also appointed a Vice Chair to take on duties and responsibilities in the absence of the Chair.

The Board of Trustees delegate day-to-day management to the Director, Ms S Shaw. Please note that Ms S Shaw is not a formal Director at Companies House.

Wider network
Firstsite has a close relationship with Arts Council of England, which is a charity, Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council, all of which provide funding to enable Firstsite to carry out its charitable objectives. Firstsite is also an active member of the +Tate network and the Contemporary Visual Arts Network, contributing to sector-wide strategic projects that support increased access to art and culture across the UK.

Related parties
Firstsite Enterprises Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary company and operates the commercial aspect of the organisation which includes a number of elements. 15 Queen Street offers a creative hub for local small and new businesses. At the year-end, there were five resident members with creative skills ranging from illustration, crafts and marketing with a mix of charity, and social enterprise status.

The other activities that comprise those of Firstsite Enterprises Limited include managing the hire of spaces in Firstsite's building and organising events, conferences and meetings; the provision of a permanent café in the building which is open for food and drink 7 days a week; the provision of a shop selling art related items that includes locally produced artwork and craft. The operation of the auditorium which is used to screen live performances and with the partnership with Curzon Cinemas, a full film programme. In addition, there are a number of related talks and debates which are on offer to the public.

The commercial activity produced an income that allows Firstsite to show informative and interesting art exhibitions as well as the provision of educational workshops and classes that are free to attend or are offered at a subsidy.

Auditor
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Whittles be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor
Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Ms R Millard OBE
Trustee
Dated: 11 August 2022

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Firstsite Limited for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FIRSTSITE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Firstsite Limited (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated and parent company balance sheets, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable group and company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the Trustees report.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the group for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

The audit tests, including planning procedures, adopted for the audit of these financial statements are designed to assess and detect the risk of irregularities, including fraud. Our risk assessment of the likelihood of irregularities included the high degree of involvement of the experienced directors, which reduces the risk of irregularities. The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the group through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the Companies Act 2006 Charities Act 2011, taxation legislation, Employment Law and Data Protection.

We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence. These were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We identified the greatest potential for fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations in the following areas, and the specific procedures performed to address them are described below:

- We obtained an understanding of the income process and the flow of financial information to the general ledger and how this is classified as restricted and unrestricted.

- Cut-off testing was performed at the year-end date by reviewing revenue which had be accrued for and revenue that had been recognised after date to identify any transaction which had been erroneously recognised in the incorrect period. The same testing was carried out for expenditure.

- In line with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we reviewed accounting records for any unusual adjustments.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risk identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risk of material misstatement due to fraud;

- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance for the year.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FIRSTSITE LIMITED

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable group's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable groups' members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable group and the charitable group's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Greene BSc FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Whittles

4 October 2022

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Whittle & Partners LLP
The Old Exchange
64 West Stockwell Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1HE

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	1,730,312	-	1,730,312	1,316,314	-	1,316,314
Charitable activities							
Learning & education	5	12,438	23,814	36,252	12,522	17,917	30,439
Artistic programme	5	27,058	417,213	444,271	21,264	176,744	198,008
Investments	4	23,172	-	23,172	21,454	-	21,454
Other income	7	600,553	-	600,553	328,476	-	328,476
Total income		2,393,533	441,027	2,834,560	1,700,030	194,661	1,894,691
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds							
Costs of generating voluntary income	6	25,253	-	25,253	25,253	-	25,253
Trading costs	6	301,183	-	301,183	125,036	-	125,036
		326,436	-	326,436	150,289	-	150,289
Charitable activities							
Learning & education	8	415,983	115,320	531,303	421,972	107,256	529,228
Artistic programme	8	1,357,788	234,914	1,592,702	793,935	158,042	951,977
Total charitable expenditure		1,773,771	350,234	2,124,005	1,215,907	265,298	1,481,205
Total resources expended		2,100,207	350,234	2,450,441	1,366,196	265,298	1,631,494

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds	293,326	90,793	384,119	333,834	(70,637)	263,197
Fund balances at 1 April 2021	420,744	211,218	631,962	86,910	281,856	368,766
Fund balances at 31 March 2022	714,070	302,011	1,016,081	420,744	211,219	631,963

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		58,958		35,621
Heritage assets	14		79,400		79,400
Investment properties	16		175,000		175,000
			313,358		290,021
Current assets					
Stocks	19	52,040		32,527	
Debtors	21	294,790		161,600	
Cash at bank and in hand		599,988		428,403	
		946,818		622,530	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	22	(209,095)		(235,588)	
Net current assets			737,723		386,942
Total assets less current liabilities			1,051,081		676,963
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	23		(35,000)		(45,000)
Net assets			1,016,081		631,963
Income funds					
General restricted funds		237,491		146,699	
Revaluation reserve		64,520		64,520	
	27		302,011		211,219
Unrestricted funds			714,070		420,744
			1,016,081		631,963

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 11 August 2022

Ms R Millard OBE
Trustee

Company Registration No. 2884347

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		38,844		35,620
Heritage assets	14		79,400		79,400
Investment properties	16		175,000		175,000
Investments	17		100		100
			293,344		290,120
Current assets					
Debtors	21	290,950		205,501	
Cash at bank and in hand		580,679		365,762	
		871,629		571,263	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	22	(186,176)		(228,060)	
Net current assets			685,453		343,203
Total assets less current liabilities			978,797		633,323
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	23		(35,000)		(45,000)
Net assets			943,797		588,323
Income funds					
General restricted funds		237,491		146,683	
Revaluation reserve		64,520		64,520	
	27		302,011		211,203
Unrestricted funds			641,786		377,120
			943,797		588,323

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 11 August 2022 and are signed on its behalf by:

Ms R Millard OBE
Trustee
Company Registration No. 2884347

11.8.22

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	33		220,667		374,036
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(44,091)		(27,035)	
Interest received		9		1	
Net cash used in investing activities			(44,082)		(27,034)
Financing activities					
Proceeds of new bank loans		-		50,000	
Repayment of bank loans		(5,000)		-	
Net cash (used in)/generated from financing activities			(5,000)		50,000
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			171,585		397,002
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			428,403		31,401
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			599,988		428,403

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Firstsite Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JH.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the group's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The group is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the group. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the group is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the group has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

The charity occupies a Council funded building within Colchester for a peppercorn rent. It has not been possible to ascertain an accurate market rate for inclusion in the financial statements due to the specialist nature of the building provided.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Income from grants is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

- when donors specify that grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods;
- when donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the preconditions have been met;
- when donors specify that grants are for restricted purposes which do not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

Where the costs of charitable activities cannot be directly attributed to a charitable activity they are allocated proportionally between the artistic programme 74% (2021: 64%) and learning and education 26% (2021: 36%).

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant, equipment & auditorium	33.3% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Gallery equipment & IT	25% straight line
Office IT	25% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Heritage assets consist of previously donated art. These assets are not depreciated as the value is not considered to diminish. During the year, the heritage assets have been revalued by an independent valuer for insurance purposes.

1.7 Investment properties

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the SOFA.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Financial instruments

The group has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. A specific provision is made for debts for which recoverability is in doubt.

Cash at bank and in hand is defined as all cash held in instant access bank accounts and used as working capital. Investments, including those in subsidiary undertakings are held at fair value at the balance sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise all creditors except social security and other taxes, deferred income and provisions.

1.11 Taxation

Firstsite is an exempt charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011 and as such is a charity within the meaning of Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010. Accordingly, Firstsite is partially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within the categories by Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to its charitable purposes.

Firstsite received no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax. Firstsite is a partially exempt organisation for VAT purposes and consequently input tax on its purchases are not fully recoverable.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.14 Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the charitable company and its subsidiary. As a consolidated statement of financial activities is published, a separate statement of financial activities for the parent company is omitted from the group financial statements by virtue of section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements

Depreciation

The main accounting estimate requiring significant judgement surrounds the depreciation policy applied to the group's fixed assets. This judgement requires management to determine the estimated useful life of assets and asset classes in order to calculate an appropriate rate of depreciation. Due to the specialised nature of some of these assets, this increases the judgement required.

Heritage assets

The group owns heritage assets consisting of donated artwork. As these assets are unique and specialised, they require judgement to be applied to ensure they are included at an appropriate value.

Investment property

The group owns an investment property which is rented out to tenants to generate income. This was valued in 2020 by an independent professional valuer. There is judgement required by management to determine whether the condition of the property has changed sufficiently since the date of the last valuation to require an updated valuation to be obtained.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations and gifts	74,823	89,800
Grants	1,655,489	1,226,514
	1,730,312	1,316,314
Grants receivable for core activities		
Arts Council England	1,458,489	1,079,514
Essex County Council	100,000	50,000
Colchester Borough Council	97,000	97,000
	1,655,489	1,226,514

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Rental income	23,163	21,453
Interest receivable	9	1
	23,172	21,454

5 Charitable activities

	Learning & education	Artistic programme	Total	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	36,252	444,271	480,523	228,447
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	12,438	27,058	39,496	
Restricted funds	23,814	417,213	441,027	
	36,252	444,271	480,523	
For the year ended 31 March 2021				
Unrestricted funds	12,522	21,264		33,786
Restricted funds	17,917	176,744		194,661
	30,439	198,008		228,447

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Staff costs	25,253	25,253
Trading costs		
Direct trading costs	301,183	125,036
	326,436	150,289

7 Other income

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other income	469,709	288,504
Room and venue hire	71,186	25,439
Auditorium programme	59,658	14,533
	600,553	328,476

Included in other income is £20,881 (2021: £162,775) relating to furlough payments received under the Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme.

8 Charitable activities

	Learning & education 2022	Artistic programme 2022	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	131,774	297,146	428,920	559,804
Direct costs	124,276	512,145	636,421	275,335
	256,050	809,291	1,065,341	835,139
Share of support costs (see note 9)	266,234	757,742	1,023,976	604,470
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	9,019	25,669	34,688	41,596
	531,303	1,592,702	2,124,005	1,481,205
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	415,983	1,357,788	1,773,771	1,215,907
Restricted funds	115,320	234,914	350,234	265,298
	531,303	1,592,702	2,124,005	1,481,205
For the year ended 31 March 2021				
Unrestricted funds	421,972	793,935		1,215,907
Restricted funds	107,256	158,042		265,298
	529,228	951,977		1,481,205

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	487,387	-	487,387	281,240	-	281,240
Depreciation	20,753	-	20,753	25,671	-	25,671
Office costs	17,011	-	17,011	3,285	-	3,285
Insurance	33,832	-	33,832	27,842	-	27,842
Communication	51,959	-	51,959	24,481	-	24,481
Recruitment and training	15,975	-	15,975	5,748	-	5,748
Utilties	146,216	-	146,216	82,920	-	82,920
Building costs	140,650	-	140,650	99,712	-	99,712
Computer and telecoms	58,384	-	58,384	40,398	-	40,398
Licence and subscriptions	50,112	-	50,112	13,173	-	13,173
Bad debts	1,697	-	1,697	-	-	-
Audit fees	-	8,624	8,624	-	9,807	9,807
Accountancy	-	3,090	3,090	-	3,000	3,000
Legal and professional	-	7,628	7,628	-	13,691	13,691
Board and committee expenses	-	1,689	1,689	-	5,290	5,290
Bank charges	-	13,657	13,657	-	9,808	9,808
	1,023,976	34,688	1,058,664	604,470	41,596	646,066
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	1,023,976	34,688	1,058,664	604,470	41,596	646,066

10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, but two of them were reimbursed a total of £199 travelling expenses (2021 : two were reimbursed £430).

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
General	64	59

11 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	842,907	791,161
Social security costs	64,346	47,229
Other pension costs	34,307	27,907
	941,560	866,297

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1

12 Auditor's remuneration

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

Fees payable to the group's auditors and associates:	2022	2021
	£	£
Audit of the groups annual accounts	8,624	9,807
Non-audit services		
All other non-audit services	3,090	3,000

13 Profit/(Loss) of Parent Company

As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, the profit and loss account of the parent company is not presented as part of these financial statements. The parent company's surplus was £355,473 (2021: £260,012).

14 Heritage assets

Group and Charity

	2018
	£
At 1 April 2021	79,400
At 1 April 2021 and at 31 March 2022	79,400

15 Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Plant, equipment & auditorium	Fixtures and fittings	Gallery equipment & IT	Office IT	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2021	192,080	337,396	397,278	48,708	975,462
Additions	24,312	5,546	14,233	-	44,091
At 31 March 2022	216,392	342,942	411,511	48,708	1,019,553
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2021	184,504	337,396	369,234	48,708	939,842
Depreciation charged in the year	8,665	1,490	10,598	-	20,753
At 31 March 2022	193,169	338,886	379,832	48,708	960,595
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2022	23,223	4,056	31,679	-	58,958
At 31 March 2021	7,576	-	28,045	-	35,620

Charity

	Plant, equipment & auditorium	Fixtures and fittings	Gallery equipment & IT	Office IT	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2021	186,310	337,396	397,278	48,708	969,692
Additions	24,312	5,546	14,233	-	44,091
At 31 March 2022	210,622	342,942	411,511	48,708	1,013,783
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2021	178,735	337,396	369,234	48,708	934,073
Depreciation charged in the year	4,466	1,490	10,598	-	16,554
At 31 March 2022	183,201	338,886	379,832	48,708	950,627
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2022	27,421	4,056	31,679	-	63,156
At 31 March 2021	7,575	-	28,044	-	35,619

16 Investment property

Group and charity

	2022
	£
Fair value	
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	175,000

Investment property comprises the long leasehold of 15 Queen Street, Colchester until the year 2160. Lloyds Bank PLC have a registered charge over the property.

The fair value of the investment property has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out on 11 February 2020 by Morley Riches & Ablewhite Chartered Surveyors, who are not connected with the group. The valuation was made on an open market value basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties. The Board of Trustees consider that the market value of the property is not materially different to that stated above.

17 Fixed asset investments

Charity

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
Investments in subsidiaries	18	100	100

18 Subsidiaries

Separate company financial statements are required to be prepared by law. Consolidated financial statements for the Firstsite Limited Group are prepared and publicly available.

Details of the group's subsidiaries at 31 March 2022 are as follows:

Name of undertaking and country of incorporation or residency	Nature of business	Class of shareholding	% Held Direct
Firstsite Enterprises Limited United Kingdom	Trading arm of charity	Ordinary	100.00

19 Stocks

	2022	2021
	£	£
Shop stock	37,426	29,933
Bar and cafe stock	14,614	2,594
	52,040	32,527

20 Financial instruments

Group	2022	2021
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	261,771	117,130
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at fair value through profit or loss		
Measured at amortised cost	221,786	270,322

Charity	2022	2021
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	263,422	166,663
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	203,120	263,389

21 Debtors

Group

Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	15,160	57,225
Other debtors	258,348	73,910
Prepayments and accrued income	21,282	30,465
	294,790	161,600

Debtors

Charity

Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	8,025	53,961
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	13,364	52,797
Other debtors	252,960	68,278
Prepayments and accrued income	16,601	30,465
	290,950	205,501

22 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year
Group

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loans	24	10,000	5,000
Other taxation and social security		18,056	9,671
Deferred income	25	4,253	595
Trade creditors		57,173	44,810
Other creditors		6,643	3,218
Accruals and deferred income		112,970	172,294
		209,095	235,588

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year
Charity

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loans	24	10,000	5,000
Other taxation and social security		18,056	9,671
Trade creditors		40,620	41,487
Other creditors		6,643	3,218
Accruals and deferred income		110,857	168,684
		186,176	228,060

23 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year
Group and charity

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loans	24	35,000	45,000

24 Loans and overdrafts
Group and charity

	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loans	45,000	50,000
Payable within one year	10,000	5,000
Payable after one year	35,000	45,000

24 Loans and overdrafts (Continued)

The loan was taken out in September 2020 for a term of 72 months to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. It will be repaid in equal instalments of £833 a month at a fixed interest rate of 2.5%. The amount is not secured over any of the charity's assets.

25 Deferred income

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other deferred income	4,253	595

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	4,253	595
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2021	595	-
Resources deferred in the year	3,658	595
Deferred income at 31 March 2022	4,253	595

26 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit and loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £34,307 (2021: £27,908).

27 **Restricted funds**

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Artwork fund	79,400	-	-	79,400
Collectors Group - Artists support	24,033	5,869	(10,087)	19,815
Tate - Circuit	437	-	-	437
Refugee Action Restaurant	1,912	-	-	1,912
The Britishness project	9,472	-	-	9,472
Royal Opera House	1,094	-	(34)	1,060
Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust	2,000	-	-	2,000
Youth Music	8,755	3,000	(3,623)	8,132
Percil Bilton Charity	500	-	-	500
New Geographies - Wysing	(8,151)	-	-	(8,151)
Garfield Weston Lighting	34,694	-	(3,250)	31,444
Arts Council Collection	(10,983)	170,000	(169,656)	(10,639)
Holiday Fun	(442)	101,558	(95,902)	5,214
Black Essex	23,289	-	(2,796)	20,493
Art Fund	6,969	-	-	6,969
NHS COVID project	30,000	-	-	30,000
ArtFund & BBC Commissioning	10,000	-	-	10,000
Holiday Fund Easter 21	11,893	-	(4,435)	7,458
The Great Big Art Exhibition	(17,247)	44,100	(24,773)	2,080
Culture Recovery Fund (Capital)		65,000	(2,759)	62,241
Artfund Digital Respond & Reimagine		31,500	(12,914)	18,586
Ampersand Michael Landy		20,000	(20,000)	-
Other	3,593	-	(5)	3,588
	211,218	441,027	(350,234)	302,011

27 Restricted funds (Continued)

Firstsite Development Appeal
This relates to fixed assets purchased out of funds raised following a specific campaign for the of Firstsite.

Artwork Fund
This relates to works of art donated to the gallery which are held as heritage assets.

Collectors Group Artist Support
Funds raised by the Collectors' Group through Membership fees and special events to be used to support artists with the Collectors Group annual bursary awards and to contribute to Firstsite exhibition fundraising projects.

Refugee Action Restaurant (The Peoples postcode lottery)
Working with Syrian Refugee Community, providing facilities to enable people to mix; developing transferable skills & achieving qualifications.

Britishness Project
Supporting Learning & Education activities working with young people across Essex in a variety of educational settings to produce a set of works both authored and created by young people from national collections which give a high profile platform for young people's interpretations of British Values Britishness.

Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust Retail
Donation to support the commissioning of artist merchandise for sales in the gallery shop.

Youth Music
To expand young people's musical understanding, expression and skills including improvisation, experimentation, listening, composition and performance and developing technical skills in the use of digital technology and software. The project supports participants in engaging with, and collaborating with, a range of other community groups and develop their emotional and psychological capabilities particularly confidence, empathy, self-awareness and creativity.

New Geographies - Wysing Arts
The East Contemporary Visual Arts Network (ECVAN) launched New Geographies in May 2018, a three-year partnership between nine arts organisations in the East of England ECVAN asked people to nominate overlooked or unexpected places in the region that they find meaningful and interesting to them. The exhibition that was produced in collaboration with artist susan pui san lok focussed upon the persecution of men and women in Essex who were branded as witches. This project continues into but has been delayed owing to lockdown and the deficit is due to this delay and timing differences, a further funding payment is due later in 2021.

Garfield Weston Foundation

Firstsite was awarded part funding to support a lighting renewal programme within the gallery areas of the building. These funds are due to be utilised in 2021/22.

27 Restricted funds (Continued)

Arts Council Collection - National Partners Programme

Year two of a three-year funded programme by Arts Council England's National Contemporary Art Collection. The programme consists of several exhibitions that are co-curated by community groups in Colchester, which explores their experiences of life in the United Kingdom, be it cultural, social, or political. It explores and challenges widely held perceptions about identity and diversity. Exhibitions include content produced in partnership with community groups and drawing upon the extensive national collection of contemporary art held by Arts Council England. Final funding is due during 2021-22 financial year for the final year of the project. In addition, Black Essex funds and NHS Covid project part fund the project as part of the matched funding requirement from the funder.

Holiday Fun

This programme is open to all families, but especially those who access support with free school meals. The project consists of a canteen offering a selection of hot food, art activities and engagement and sport activities run by trained coaches. During the financial year the project has been funded by Essex Community Fund, Active Essex.

Black Essex

Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, the Black Essex exhibition represents a positive assertion of 'black artists' working presence in the UK. Raising the profile of their artistic dignity, inventive use of a visual language reflecting the artists experiences of living and working in a society in which a person with black skin is often considered inferior.

ArtFund

A small project grant to support a collaborative touring project across the Arts Council England's - National Partners Programme, with programme partners Newlyn and Sunderland contemporary art galleries.

NHS COVID Project - Art for Life

A fund from the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group who approached Firstsite to make a project that recorded the COVID-19 experiences of NHS key workers. The project started with a simple question: 'Tell us about your experience of the pandemic.' Artist-led workshops with participating key workers supported by an NHS art psychotherapist, will form the content of the exhibition and will include artworks loaned from the Arts Council Collection. This exhibition will be shown in 2021/22

Art Fund - Culture in Quarantine

A project to support Art Fund and the BBC in the R&D period towards a 'Culture in Quarantine' landmark art commission. Firstsite was part of a project team alongside Art Fund and BBC; provide advice and insight. The project will continue and Firstsite will collaborate on a prospect list of artists; manage the relationship with the artists, support with delivering initial ideas to put forward to the project team.

The Great Art Exhibition

Funded by Arts Council Collection, Firstsite created a national digital art exhibition online. The artworks are created by members of the public based around themes. The project required development of our website to enable thousands of artworks to be viewed online. The exhibition is also being displayed within the gallery during 2021/22. Funding for this project has been received after the 31 March 2021.

27 **Restricted funds** (Continued)

Ampersand - Michael Landy

Funding from Ampersand to support the Michael Landy 'Welcome to Essex' exhibition that explores the urban myths, received wisdoms and blatant stereotypes about the county of his birth, Essex. Landy has produced a series of ambitious new commissions based on the history of Essex, and his fascination with the county's contemporary portrayal in popular culture. Welcome to Essex links the past and present by underlining how modern-day Essex has been shaped by Thatcherism (Margaret Thatcher once resided in Colchester and first joined the Conservative Party there) and how the Essex stereotype is reinforced by the media and TV shows such as Birds of a Feather and The Only Way Is Essex.

Art Fund - Digital Respond & Re-imagine

A project to provide the funds to promote the development of digital production skills to produce online content for upcoming exhibitions, to include audio/video recordings, online talks, tours and workshops.

Arts Council England Culture Recovery Fund

Funding for capital improvements to enable accessibility to the Firstsite building by providing ramp access to the historic Berryfield lawn from the main veranda and giving access to the café area.

28 **Analysis of net assets between funds**
Group

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	58,958	-	58,958
Heritage assets	-	79,400	79,400
Investment properties	175,000	-	175,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	515,062	222,661	737,723
Long term liabilities	(45,000)	-	(45,000)
	704,020	302,061	1,006,081

Analysis of net assets between funds
Charity

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	38,844	-	38,844
Heritage assets	-	79,400	79,400
Investment properties	175,000	-	175,000
Investments	100	-	100
Current assets/(liabilities)	685,453	222,661	908,114
Long-term liabilities	(35,000)		(35,000)
	864,397	302,061	1,166,458

29 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

Group and charity

The investment property, 15 Queen Street, was purchased with the aid of a grant. The terms of this grant state that Firstsite Limited might have to repay the donor their share of the net proceeds of the future sale of the property. Should the property be sold for its current net book value, Firstsite Limited may potentially be required to repay £100,000.

30 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the group had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Within one year	1,639	2,071
Between two and five years	1,640	3,279
	3,279	5,350

31 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	68,680	67,993

32 Auditors ethical standards

The relevant circumstances requiring disclosure in accordance with the requirements of APB Ethical Standard - Provisions Available for Small Entities are that, in common with many charities of our size and nature we use our auditor to assist with the preparation of the accounts.

33	Cash generated from operations	2022	2021
		£	£
	Surplus for the year	384,119	263,197
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in profit or loss	(9)	(1)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	20,753	25,671
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(19,513)	4,830
	(Increase) in debtors	(133,190)	(34,703)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(35,151)	114,447
	Increase in deferred income	3,658	595
	Cash generated from operations	220,667	374,036

34	Analysis of changes in net funds	At 1 April 2021	Cash flows	At 31 March 2022
		£	£	£
	Cash at bank and in hand	428,403	171,585	599,988
	Loans falling due within one year	(5,000)	(5,000)	(10,000)
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(45,000)	10,000	(35,000)
		378,403	176,585	554,988

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1031800

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1031800

Company Registration No. 2884347 (England and Wales)

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

AMENDED CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORT

AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

WHITTLES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

AMENDED ACCOUNTS

Trustees' declarations:

- the revised financial statements replace the original documents;
- these are now the statutory financial statements;
- they have been prepared as at the date of the original financial statements, and not as at the date of revision and accordingly do not deal with events between those dates;

The original financial statements of the Charity omitted paragraphs required on the audit report that have now been included.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr G C Armitage Mr T Field Ms Rosie Millard OBE Mr R A Polom Ms C Francis Ms D Leacock Ms S Pui San Lok Mr P Tibber Mr M Durham
Chief Executive	Ms S Shaw MBE
Charity number	1031800
Company number	2884347
Registered office	Lewis Gardens High Street Colchester Essex CO1 1JH
Auditors	Whittles Whittle & Partners LLP The Old Exchange 64 West Stockwell Street Colchester Essex CO1 1HE
Solicitors	Ellisons Headgate Court Head Street Colchester Essex CO1 1NP

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Bankers

HSBC
26 High Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1DG

CCLA Investment Management Limited
COIF Charity Funds
80 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6DZ

Lloyds Bank
22 High Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1DU

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONTENTS

	Page
Chair's statement	1 - 2
Trustees report	3 - 9
Statement of Trustees responsibilities	10
Independent auditor's report	11 - 13
Consolidated Statement of financial activities	14 - 15
Consolidated Balance sheet	16
Charity Balance sheet	17
Consolidated statement of cash flows	18
Notes to the accounts	19 - 39

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

This has been a memorable year for Firstsite, notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic which devastated the UK from the first lockdown which occurred almost exactly at the start of our financial year. Firstly I would like to extend acknowledgement, sympathy and respect to partners, colleagues, members of staff and stakeholders who may have been grievously affected by Coronavirus, to anyone who has been bereaved and to anyone who has suffered long-term effects. The effort from partners, staff and the Board of Trustees to continue working, and to help Firstsite come through this national challenge has been remarkable. The fact that we are open once more, and stronger than ever, is down to them.

We were only open for 4 months in the last financial year. We closed on 12 March 2020, and reopened on 12 July. Then we closed again for a month from November 4 to December 3 2020, and closed once more from 24 December through to May 2021.

However, our exhibitions during the brief moments of access through the year were remarkable. They included our continuation of presentation of works from the Arts Council Collection, beginning with Super Black, which was curated by members of the Black community and included many important works by Black artists including Turner Prize nominee Hurvin Anderson, and Elsa James. Tell Me The Story of These Things represented Arts Council Collection art by leading female artists including Tracey Emin, Sarah Lucas and Cornelia Parker, selected by a female curating team of radical women from Colchester. The exhibition was mounted alongside comments and quotations from the team which allowed a remarkable and moving dialogue within the gallery. The final show from the Arts Council Collection was My name is Not Refugee, which reopened just before Christmas. Curated by a group of refugees and asylum seekers living in Colchester, it included work by Jananne Al-Ani, David Shrigley and Mona Hatoum and explored what it means to find new connections in a different place.

Each of these presentations were a powerful and brilliant example of our overarching concept; namely to allow particular groups from our local community, many of whom are marginalised, to curate and express views through the work selected. Each show had its particular dynamic and each its particular sensibility.

Other presentations during the year included a remarkable array of giant sculptures by Phillida Barlow in the newly opened up foyer, an exhibition from the Ipswich and Colchester Art Societies which was as diverse and delightful as this event always is, and a presentation by artist and President of Firstsite, Sonia Coode-Adams MBE, of beautiful paintings done in her garden during lockdown. Lockdown Garden delighted us all with its uplifting colour and beautiful line. It was moving and profound to have artwork from someone who has done so much to ensure the creation and onward success of Firstsite, actually presented in the gallery. Thank you Sonia!

Also present in the gallery was Background Bob and Rachel Spender's Saltmarsh from the Air. Outside, Firstsite put up the town's first open air ice rink, so that families could enjoy an outside activity when so much had been cancelled over Christmas. It was opened on the ice by Colchester's MP Will Quince who proved himself a rather effective skater.

Digitally, Firstsite made huge leaps and I think it is fair to say that our advances would not have been thus had not lockdown forced our Director Sally Shaw to think creatively on how we might remain open, while being closed. Immediately after the first lockdown was announced, Firstsite produced the first of three Artists' Activity Packs which were downloaded by a local, national and international audience to great acclaim. In each pack, artists of national significance including Jeremy Deller, Grayson Perry and Sonia Boyce advised people at home how to be creative and how to make work themselves for little or no financial outlay. Each Pack could be printed out at home. The project gained national coverage on Radio 4's Front Row and in The Guardian.

As an acknowledgement of her work for the arts during lockdown Sally Shaw was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. We were all absolutely delighted by this very well-deserved honour for Sally.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Our engagement with the nation at home continued with The Great Big Art Exhibition, which was started and promoted by Firstsite and continued in newspapers and across the nation. This encouraged the UK to use its front windows as a gallery and inspired people to make their own artwork which was then displayed by them at home. Nationally renowned artists suggested themes such as animals or flowers, and prizes were given to the most inventive productions. The entire exhibition was captured digitally and is currently on display at Firstsite.

Firstsite's beautiful building was repurposed during lockdown and turned into a food distribution hub for shielding communities. We also continued our Holiday Fun project and gave out many hundreds of nourishing lunches and dinners throughout lockdown to families who needed them. It was a way in which Firstsite could continue our community engagement which is so much part of our mission.

I would like to thank Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council for their continued support for Firstsite during this most difficult year. Thanks, too, to the Arts Council of England for supporting Firstsite when we were closed. Emergency funding from the Arts Council of England and the furlough scheme, implemented by the DCMS, meant that we have reopened in a position of strength and have been able to present an acclaimed and successful programme straightaway. Thanks also goes to our audiences for keeping faith with the gallery, and for coming back, particularly as we have a beautiful fresh new café overlooking the fields at the back of the site.

I would also like to thank the dedicated and talented staff of Firstsite, and the Board who have worked so hard and taken part in many Zoom meetings to ensure that Firstsite could meet the Covid challenge with ingenuity and integrity.

Lastly of course I must thank our Director Sally Shaw MBE who has steered our beautiful golden crescent throughout the vicissitudes of the pandemic with imagination and courage, so that we have re-emerged stronger and more focused on serving our community with equity and quality.

Rosie Millard

Ms Rosie Millard OBE
Chair
Dated: 10 August 2021

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the group's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's object and its principal activity is to promote the arts in society, in particular the visual and media arts, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Colchester in particular and the surrounding area in East Anglia in general by developing public appreciation of the arts and by improving public access to and the quality of the arts. The organisation is a national leader in commissioning contemporary art, exhibiting it in the organisation's building and providing innovative new learning opportunities for the public to understand and appreciate new and existing art.

The charity's objective is to increase its reach into the community with a programme of exhibited artwork and associated learning activities. The strategy for the artistic programme is to exhibit artwork that includes new art that engages with a broad audience, show work from established artists and to produce innovative exhibitions. The learning programme's aims are to find appropriate and interesting ways to engage with hard to reach sections of the community, attract school visits to exhibitions and artist led workshops and to encourage more members of the community to participate in creative activity.

Vision

Creative Change - We help lots of diverse people see themselves in the world differently, we provide creative opportunities that make a difference when and where needed most and we promote imaginative responses to contemporary issues

Mission

At Firstsite and in our satellite venues, we show a diverse mix of the very best historic, modern and contemporary art from around the world, free for everyone, every day.

Values

Inclusion: equality of access and opportunity combined with best practice to help engage with our audiences, artists, community groups, partners, suppliers and staff.

Quality: the use of analytics to help us continuously improve customer experience and how we work and make decisions, to ensure we make measureable impacts.

Innovation: working collaboratively with our stakeholders, partners and funders to ensure we are continuously looking for better ways of working and achieving higher returns on investment.

Professionalism: adopting best practice in all that we do to ensure that we are well governed, well managed and seen as an effective asset for the communities we serve.

Our business plan - Creative Together - has been successful prior to the extensive lockdown and closure of the building in response the Covid-19 pandemic. The current 4-year business plan model to 2022, together with the impacts of the lockdown means the challenge to create and implement excellent content is even greater and calls on our small team to be entrepreneurial, outward looking and collaborative in every aspect of our work, driving commercial activity and seeking new partners and investors.

Despite the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic 2020/21 Firstsite has continued to operate in different ways and remain a valued community asset, enabling positive change and living up to its expectations as an agile and innovative regeneration project. The following report provides an assessment of our progress against our headline goals and KPIs.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the group should undertake.

Achievements and performance

1. Be a radical and outstanding art gallery

KPI: Deliver four headline exhibitions that draw in internationally significant partners and artists as well as supporting emerging and regional talent.

The extended periods of closure resulted in our planned exhibitions for 2020/21 being severely disrupted and have been postponed into mid-2021. It was the second year of programming in partnership with the Arts Council England National Collection. Firstsite hosted two headline exhibitions - Radical Women, Tell me the Story of these things, which included works from Tracey Emin, Cornelia Parker, Sarah Lucas and Gillian Wearing. My Name is not Refugee was also part of this programme which was co-curated with individuals who are supported by Refugee Action Colchester. We also delivered exhibitions with artists Phyllida Barlow and Rachel Spender. Alongside these digital exhibitions and activities (Art is where the Home is and The Great Big Art Exhibition) were produced, reaching national and international audiences. These projects included works and collaborations from a wide range of artists such as Antony Gormley, Anish Kapoor, Tai Shani, Jeremy Deller, Simone Fattal among many more - keeping to our commitment to show work by diverse artists from regional, national, and international contexts.

2. Bring lots of different people together to enjoy art and culture

KPI: Increase audience footfall from 131,000 in 2018/19 to 145,000 in 2020/21

Despite closing our building in mid-March 2020 because of the COVID-19 Pandemic Firstsite achieved its audience target in 2019/20. Had the building remained open it would have exceeded this target by at least 4,000. The prolonged periods of closure during 2020/21 impacted the audience footfall dramatically. When open to the public audience levels were 45% of pre Covid levels for the same period. Audience levels were gradually increasing and in December 2020, audience levels peaked at 70% of pre-Covid levels. As a result of the digital programmes and activities we increased our online audiences by 46,000.

3. Be bold in improving diversity and inclusion

KPI: Increase levels of diversity in the artistic programme to a minimum of 50% per year, in our audiences to reflect national levels and likewise in our Board and our staff including volunteers to reflect national levels.

Firstsite significantly improved the levels of diversity within its audiences, artistic programme, team, and governance in 2020/21. The artistic programme included diverse artists but also by inviting diverse members of the community to take part in curating exhibitions and authoring the programme, such as My Name is not Refugee. The Firstsite Holiday Fun programme recognised increasing levels in the diversity of its attendees during 2020. In late 2020 a peak of 48% of families who were from a non-white British background were accessing the support from Holiday Fun, reflecting the adverse impact of Covid-19 on these communities. Firstsite's Board membership achieved a greater balance of male and female members, and the average age of members and BAME membership has remained at similar levels. Recruitment of new trustees is taking place during 2021. As part of this process, prospective trustees from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences will be a high priority.

4. Champion the needs of Children and Young People

KPI: Increase the number of children and young people in Colchester and surrounding wards especially those from protected characteristic groups engaging with art and culture by delivering at least 100 sessions and connecting with 40 schools.

The closure of the building due to national lockdown regulations prevented Firstsite delivering its ground-breaking Holiday Fun programme in the usual way. Easter and May half term holidays a takeaway food and activity pack was provided to families. In addition, we worked with the Active Essex programme to support families with food packages during school holidays. In summer 2020 we offered a social restricted holiday fun offering and continued with takeaway meals. In December 2020 we offered an extended period of support throughout December not just for the holiday period. During 2020-21, we provided 4,000 meals to families. School visits did not take place during the year due to closure and restrictions.

5. Be financially resilient and share our resources

Strategic Objective: Successfully apply to the Arts Council England National Portfolio to confirm core funding for the next four years.

Firstsite has continued to successfully manage and report on its on-going funds from ACE, and Colchester Borough Council. Essex County Council core funding ended in 2020/21. Essex County Council have part funded Holiday Fun programme during 2020-21 as part of its Activ-Ate county-wide programme to support children who are eligible for free school meals and Essex Community Fund amounting to £34,880. Firstsite applied for emergency Covid funding in May 2020 and was awarded £250,000 to support during the extended closure periods owing to national lockdown. Arts Council England have extended the original business plan period for a further year. Following this an application will be made to support Firstsite's 4-year business plan from 2023 to 2027.

6. Be excellent in our Governance and management

Headline KPI: Reduce Firstsite's overall organisational risk ratio from 0.6 in 2017/18 to 0.4 by 2021/22 by continuously assessing immediate and long-term risk and improving mitigation plans.

Prior to COVID-19 Firstsite's risk category level with Arts Council England was rated 'normal' This was because of continuing improvements in financial management, governance, decision-making, procurement, and risk review practice. Improved communication and team-working at all levels of the organisation have enabled a strong and agile response to COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic continues to be a major risk to the organisation and the whole of the arts sector. Risk mitigation in part will take the form of developing our artistic programme so that potential future building closures do not prevent Firstsite reaching and developing its audiences.

Financial review

The charitable company continues to endeavour to implement its risk management strategy and reserves policy in line with its business planning for the full operation of the building and the carrying out of its charitable objectives. The policy is to have 3 months of expenditure covered by unrestricted reserves at any time and the trustees are working towards achieving this.

2020/21 was a period of unprecedented financial uncertainty because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Firstsite was only able to open its building to the public for only 4 months out of the 12- month financial period. The accumulated consolidated surplus in the unrestricted fund account as of 31 March 2021 was £420,744 and there were restricted funds of £211,219. During the financial period, Firstsite received financial support in the form of emergency funding from Arts Council England £250,000, £162,775 from the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, £50,000 Bounce Back loan. Firstsite Enterprises Ltd received £34,892 Covid Business grants from the local authority.

Income from restricted activity reduced by £263,047 from the prior year, which reflects the impact of Covid pandemic placing a pause on available funding as funders responded to the situation. Funding from the Arts Council Collection continued for year two (£120,000) of the three-year project. Funding was available to support community projects, such as Holiday Fun and develop our digital capacity, which amounted to £73,000.

The trading activities of the group are carried out by Firstsite Enterprises Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary, whose results are included in these consolidated financial statements. The Trading activity was negatively impacted by the pandemic due to closure and limited opening periods with low audience levels to the building and social distancing requirements limiting what we normally offer. An operating in-year loss was made on trading activity amounting to £33,515 before the receipt of £34,892 in Covid trading grants during the year (2019/20: profit £140,447).

Income from both unrestricted and restricted sources reduced from the prior year by £162,326. Income included for Arts Council England's emergency Covid grant (£250,000), trading Covid grants (£34,000) and claims under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (£162,775). When these funds are excluded from the income total the overall reduction in income from the prior year amounted to £609,101. This was mostly attributable to the reduction in restricted income from trusts and foundations (£263,047), reduced trading from Firstsite Enterprises Ltd (£295,699) and reduction in other unrestricted income sources such as talks and classes. We have invested the Covid-19 trading grants to Firstsite Enterprises Ltd to develop our café and restaurant. The activities that we have produced have been well received and with the development of our digital programme we have reached a wider audience. We have demonstrated that we can deliver high quality exhibitions and projects for our audiences, despite lockdown.

Expenditure overall reduced from the prior year by £378,251, this reduction is reflective of the reduced activity in the building during the year. Of this reduction, £129,164 related to a reduction in activity associated with restricted projects and £194,503 was a reduction in operating costs and a reduced exhibition offering.

Tangible net fixed assets increased to £1,364 from the prior financial year and this movement in assets reflects the depreciation charge based upon the Charity's accounting policies and IT equipment to upgrade servers.

Debtors include for £28,670 of deferred exhibition costs relating to Welcome to Essex and Art for Life exhibitions which opened in May 2021. £22,974 income accrual for the March furlough grant from the Coronavirus Job Retention scheme. Included within debtors is £35,431 (2019/20: £65,602) in respect to Exhibition Tax Relief claim that is made post year end.

Creditors falling due within one year of included £101,000 of deferred income grants from Artfund, Ampersand and Arts Council Collection Workforce grant. It also includes for £5,000 recognising Firstsite's liability to pay within a year part of the £50,000 Bounce Back loan, which has a 6 year term.

Post year end Firstsite was awarded £692,625 funding in response to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic to support re-opening in 2021. This funding was from DCMS and was round two of the Culture Recovery Funding scheme. Of the total funding £65,000 is to support capital works to improve building accessibility and £246,048 was to reflate reserves using a predefined grant formula, the remaining £381,577 is to support core operational activity for the period up to December 2021. The trustees have formed a judgement, at the time of approving the financial statements, that based upon funding secured and actions being taken to respond the financial impact of Coronavirus, the group will continue its activities for the foreseeable future and remains a going concern.

Funding continues to be awarded by Arts Council England and Colchester Borough Council, which is dependent on Firstsite achieving several performance objectives.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In addition, the Trustees consider other risks to the continuance of Firstsite as an artistic learning and viewing venue. The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, include the financial position and facilities available, have been reviewed and a system has been established to mitigate those risks. The Trustees continue to work closely with the major sponsors of Firstsite to ensure common objectives and activities are achieved to ensure continued support.

Structure, governance and management

The group is a company limited by guarantee.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr G C Armitage	
Mr R C Hirst	(Resigned 9 September 2020)
Ms J R Knowles	(Resigned 4 March 2021)
Mr T Field	
Ms Rosie Millard OBE	
Mr R A Polom	
Mr A K Shah	(Resigned 17 October 2020)
Ms C Francis	
Ms D Leacock	
Ms S Pui San Lok	
Mr P Tibber	

Ms J Young (Resigned 7 May 2021)
Mr M Durham

Trustees are recruited via an agreed procedure:

1. Establish and agree the competencies required;
2. Advertise the positions via Firstsite's website and other appropriate media and invite other applicants;
3. Carry out a paper short-listing exercise comparing experience and qualifications etc., against the preferred criteria;
4. Carry out structured, competency-based interviews with members of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee and the Chair of the Managing Board and score the evidence against the pre-determined rating scale. Follow up with competency based references;
5. Arrange a meeting of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee to decide on the successful candidates;
6. Put forward the names of successful candidates to a meeting of the Board of Trustees for formal approval.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Induction and training of new trustees
New trustees undergo a period of training to brief them on their legal obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisational Structure
The Board of Trustees meets at least quarterly to review the policy, strategy and medium and long term planning needs of the organisation.

The Finance and Enterprise Committee meets regularly with the Finance Director and Director to ensure that the organisation is focused on the Business Plan priorities whilst managing risks proactively.

A Company Secretary role is appointed from amongst the Trustees to help continually develop our governance arrangements ensuring we adhere to best practice. Firstsite has also appointed a Vice Chair to take on duties and responsibilities in the absence of the Chair.

The Board of Trustees delegate day-to-day management to the Director, Ms S Shaw. Please note that Ms S Shaw is not a formal Director at Companies House.

Wider network
Firstsite has a close relationship with Arts Council of England, which is a charity, Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council, all of which provide funding to enable Firstsite to carry out its charitable objectives. Firstsite is also an active member of the +Tate network and the Contemporary Visual Arts Network, contributing to sector-wide strategic projects that support increased access to art and culture across the UK.

Related parties
Firstsite Enterprises Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary company and operates the commercial aspect of the organisation which includes a number of elements. 15 Queen Street offers a creative hub for local small and new businesses. At the year-end there were 10 resident members with creative skills ranging from illustration, crafts and marketing with a mix of charity, and social enterprise status.

The other activities that comprise those of Firstsite Enterprises Limited include managing the hire of spaces in Firstsite's building and organising events, conferences and meetings; the provision of a permanent café in the building which is open for food and drink 7 days a week; the provision of a shop selling art related items that includes locally produced artwork and craft. The operation of the auditorium which is used to screen live performances and with the partnership with Curzon Cinemas, a full film programme. In addition, there are a number of related talks and debates which are on offer to the public.

The commercial activity produced an income that allows Firstsite to show informative and interesting art exhibitions as well as the provision of educational workshops and classes that are free to attend or are offered at a subsidy.

Auditor
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Whittles be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor
Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Ms Rosie Millard OBE
Trustee
Dated: 10 August 2021

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Firstsite Limited for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FIRSTSITE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Firstsite Limited (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated and parent company balance sheets, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable group and company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the Trustees report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the group for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

The audit tests, including planning procedures, adopted for the audit of these financial statements are designed to assess and detect the risk of irregularities, including fraud. Our risk assessment of the likelihood of irregularities included the high degree of involvement of the experienced directors, which reduces the risk of irregularities. The audit team was competent to assess the risk and identify any potential irregularities. A thorough understanding of the process, frameworks and authorisations in place was obtained from the directors and tested throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable group's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable groups' members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable group and the charitable group's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Greene BSc FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Whittles

20 August 2021

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Whittle & Partners LLP
The Old Exchange
64 West Stockwell Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1HE

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	1,316,314	-	1,316,314	1,068,725	-	1,068,725
Charitable activities							
Learning & education	4	12,522	17,917	30,439	25,528	286,303	311,831
Artistic programme	4	21,264	176,744	198,008	40,910	171,405	212,315
Investments	5	21,454	-	21,454	23,110	-	23,110
Other income	6	328,476	-	328,476	441,036	-	441,036
Total income		1,700,030	194,661	1,894,691	1,599,309	457,708	2,057,017
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds							
Costs of generating voluntary income	7	25,253	-	25,253	35,718	-	35,718
Trading costs	7	125,036	-	125,036	237,011	-	237,011
		150,289	-	150,289	272,729	-	272,729
Charitable activities							
Learning & education	8	421,972	107,256	529,228	417,563	150,202	567,765
Artistic programme	8	793,935	158,042	951,977	924,991	244,260	1,169,251
Total charitable expenditure		1,215,907	265,298	1,481,205	1,342,554	394,462	1,737,016
Total resources expended		1,366,196	265,298	1,631,494	1,615,283	394,462	2,009,745
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	-	-	-	(20,000)	-	(20,000)

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	(41,595)	41,595	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	333,834	(70,637)	263,197	(77,569)	104,841	27,272
Other recognised gains and losses						
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-	64,520	64,520
Net movement in funds	333,834	(70,637)	263,197	(77,569)	169,361	91,792
Fund balances at 1 April 2020	86,910	281,856	368,766	164,479	112,495	276,974
Fund balances at 31 March 2021	420,744	211,219	631,963	86,910	281,856	368,766

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	16		35,621		34,257
Heritage assets	15		79,400		79,400
Investment properties	17		175,000		175,000
			290,021		288,657
Current assets					
Stocks	20	32,527		37,357	
Debtors	22	161,600		126,897	
Cash at bank and in hand		428,403		31,401	
		622,530		195,655	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	23	(235,588)		(115,546)	
Net current assets			386,942		80,109
Total assets less current liabilities			676,963		368,766
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	24		(45,000)		-
Net assets			631,963		368,766
Income funds					
General restricted funds		146,699		217,336	
Revaluation reserve		64,520		64,520	
	28		211,219		281,856
Unrestricted funds			420,744		86,910
			631,963		368,766

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10 August 2021

Ms Rosie Millard OBE
Trustee

Company Registration No. 2884347

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	16		35,620		33,351
Heritage assets	15		79,400		79,400
Investment properties	17		175,000		175,000
Investments	18		100		100
			290,120		287,851
Current assets					
Debtors	22	205,501		119,436	
Cash at bank and in hand		365,762		25,457	
		571,263		144,893	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	23	(228,060)		(104,433)	
Net current assets			343,203		40,460
Total assets less current liabilities			633,323		328,311
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	24		(45,000)		-
Net assets			588,323		328,311
Income funds					
General restricted funds		146,683		217,336	
Revaluation reserve		64,520		64,520	
	28		211,203		281,856
Unrestricted funds			377,120		46,455
			588,323		328,311

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 10 August 2021 and are signed on its behalf by:

Ms Rosie Millard OBE
Trustee
Company Registration No. 2884347

FIRSTSITE LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**34**		374,036		41,035
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(27,035)		(4,641)	
Interest received		1		3	
Net cash used in investing activities			(27,034)		(4,638)
Financing activities					
Proceeds of new bank loans		50,000		-	
Repayment of bank loans		-		(16,057)	
Net cash generated from/(used in) financing activities			50,000		(16,057)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			397,002		20,340
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			31,401		11,061
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			428,403		31,401

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Firstsite Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JH.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the group's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The group is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the group. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the group is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the group has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

The charity occupies a Council funded building within Colchester for a peppercorn rent. It has not been possible to ascertain an accurate market rate for inclusion in the financial statements due to the specialist nature of the building provided.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Income from grants is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

- when donors specify that grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods;
- when donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the preconditions have been met;
- when donors specify that grants are for restricted purposes which do not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

Where the costs of charitable activities cannot be directly attributed to a charitable activity they are allocated proportionally between the artistic programme 64% (2020: 67%) and learning and education 36% (2020: 33%).

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant, equipment & auditorium	33.3% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Gallery equipment & IT	25% straight line
Office IT	25% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Heritage assets consist of previously donated art. These assets are not depreciated as the value is not considered to diminish. During the year, the heritage assets have been revalued by an independent valuer for insurance purposes.

1.7 Investment properties

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the SOFA.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Financial instruments

The group has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. A specific provision is made for debts for which recoverability is in doubt.

Cash at bank and in hand is defined as all cash held in instant access bank accounts and used as working capital. Investments, including those in subsidiary undertakings are held at fair value at the balance sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure.

Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise all creditors except social security and other taxes, deferred income and provisions.

1.11 Taxation

Firstsite is an exempt charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011 and as such is a charity within the meaning of Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010. Accordingly, Firstsite is partially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within the categories by Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to its charitable purposes.

Firstsite received no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax. Firstsite is a partially exempt organisation for VAT purposes and consequently input tax on its purchases are not fully recoverable.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.14 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.15 Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the charitable company and its subsidiary. As a consolidated statement of financial activities is published, a separate statement of financial activities for the parent company is omitted from the group financial statements by virtue of section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

1.16 COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic has significantly disrupted individuals' personal lives and businesses' economic prospects in the UK and across the globe. The UK entered lockdown in March 2020 and some restrictions and social distancing provisions remain in place.

The charity has been negatively affected by COVID-19 but has continued to operate.

We have continued to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis and deem this appropriate. We do not consider that a material uncertainty about our going concern status currently exists. In making this assessment we have considered the likely trading conditions for a period of twelve months from the date of our approval of these accounts.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations and gifts	89,800	57,198
Grants	1,226,514	1,011,527
	1,316,314	1,068,725
Grants receivable for core activities		
Arts Council England	1,079,514	814,527
Essex County Council	50,000	-
Colchester Borough Council	97,000	97,000
University of Essex	-	100,000
	1,226,514	1,011,527

4 Charitable activities

	Learning & education	Artistic programme	Total	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	30,439	198,008	228,447	524,146
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	12,522	21,264	33,786	
Restricted funds	17,917	176,744	194,661	
	30,439	198,008	228,447	
For the year ended 31 March 2020				
Unrestricted funds	25,528	40,910		66,438
Restricted funds	286,303	171,405		457,708
	311,831	212,315		524,146

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Rental income	21,453	23,107
Interest receivable	1	3
	21,454	23,110

6 Other income

	2021	**2020**
	£	**£**
Other income	288,504	209,981
Room and venue hire	25,439	101,395
Auditorium programme	14,533	129,660
	328,476	441,036

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Staff costs	25,253	35,718
Trading costs		
Direct trading costs	125,036	237,011
	150,289	272,729

8 Charitable activities

	Learning & education 2021	Artistic programme 2021	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	175,225	384,579	559,804	528,177
Direct costs	121,419	153,916	275,335	368,270
	296,644	538,495	835,139	896,447
Share of support costs (see note 9)	217,609	386,861	604,470	771,267
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	14,975	26,621	41,596	69,302
	529,228	951,977	1,481,205	1,737,016
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	421,972	793,935	1,215,907	1,342,554
Restricted funds	107,256	158,042	265,298	394,462
	529,228	951,977	1,481,205	1,737,016
For the year ended 31 March 2020				
Unrestricted funds	417,563	924,991		1,342,554
Restricted funds	150,202	244,260		394,462
	567,765	1,169,251		1,737,016

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	Support costs	Governance costs	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	281,240	-	281,240	297,647	-	297,647
Depreciation	25,671	-	25,671	41,028	-	41,028
Office costs	3,285	-	3,285	13,814	-	13,814
Insurance	27,842	-	27,842	27,100	-	27,100
Communication	24,481	-	24,481	47,206	-	47,206
Recruitment and training	5,748	-	5,748	8,889	-	8,889
Utilties	82,920	-	82,920	132,041	-	132,041
Building costs	99,712	-	99,712	145,314	-	145,314
Computer and telecoms	40,398	-	40,398	46,238	-	46,238
Licence and subscriptions	13,173	-	13,173	10,440	-	10,440
Bad debts	-	-	-	1,550	-	1,550
Audit fees	-	9,807	9,807	-	8,750	8,750
Accountancy	-	3,000	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Legal and professional	-	13,691	13,691	-	42,740	42,740
Board and committee expenses	-	5,290	5,290	-	860	860
Bank charges	-	9,808	9,808	-	13,952	13,952
	604,470	41,596	646,066	771,267	69,302	840,569
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	604,470	41,596	646,066	771,267	69,302	840,569

10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, but two of them were reimbursed a total of £430 travelling expenses (2020 : three were reimbursed £540).

During the year, a trustee made sales for artist and exhibition fees of £6,000 to the charity. At the year end, £nil was outstanding. These sales were made on an arm's length basis.

11 Auditor's remuneration

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

Fees payable to the group's auditors and associates:	2021 £	2020 £
Audit of the groups annual accounts	9,807	8,750
Non-audit services		
All other non-audit services	3,000	3,000

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
General	59	54

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	791,161	778,285
Social security costs	47,229	57,205
Other pension costs	27,907	26,052
	866,297	861,542

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1

13 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Revaluation of investment properties	-	(20,000)

14 Profit/(Loss) of Parent Company

As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, the profit and loss account of the parent company is not presented as part of these financial statements. The parent company's surplus was £260,012 (2020: £99,339).

15 Heritage assets

Group and Charity

	2018
	£
At 1 April 2020	79,400
At 1 April 2020 and at 31 March 2021	79,400

The heritage assets have been revalued in line with the amount the assets are insured for. This has created a gain of £64,520. It is the intention of the trustees to professionally revalue the heritage assets over the coming year.

16 Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Plant, equipment & auditorium	Fixtures and fittings	Gallery equipment & IT	Office IT	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2020	192,080	337,396	370,244	48,708	948,428
Additions	-	-	27,035	-	27,035
At 31 March 2021	192,080	337,396	397,279	48,708	975,463
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2020	174,135	330,555	360,773	48,708	914,171
Depreciation charged in the year	10,369	6,841	8,461	-	25,671
At 31 March 2021	184,504	337,396	369,234	48,708	939,842
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2021	7,576	-	28,045	-	35,621
At 31 March 2020	17,945	6,841	9,471	-	34,257

Charity

	Plant, equipment & auditorium	Fixtures and fittings	Gallery equipment & IT	Office IT	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2020	186,310	337,396	370,244	48,708	942,658
Additions	-	-	27,035	-	27,035
At 31 March 2021	186,310	337,396	397,279	48,708	969,693
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2020	169,272	330,555	360,773	48,708	909,308
Depreciation charged in the year	9,463	6,841	8,461	-	24,765
At 31 March 2021	178,735	337,396	369,234	48,708	934,073
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2021	7,575	-	28,045	-	35,620
At 31 March 2020	17,038	6,841	9,471	-	33,350

17 Investment property

Group and charity

	2021
	£
Fair value	
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	175,000

Investment property comprises the long leasehold of 15 Queen Street, Colchester until the year 2160. Lloyds Bank PLC have a registered charge over the property.

The fair value of the investment property has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out on 11 February 2020 by Morley Riches & Ablewhite Chartered Surveyors, who are not connected with the group. The valuation was made on an open market value basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties. The Board of Trustees consider that the market value of the property is not materially different to that stated above.

18 Fixed asset investments

Charity

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Investments in subsidiaries	19	100	100

19 Subsidiaries

Separate company financial statements are required to be prepared by law. Consolidated financial statements for the Firstsite Limited Group are prepared and publicly available.

Details of the group's subsidiaries at 31 March 2021 are as follows:

Name of undertaking and country of incorporation or residency	Nature of business	Class of shareholding	% Held Direct
Firstsite Enterprises Limited United Kingdom	Trading arm of charity	Ordinary	100.00

20 Stocks

	2021	2020
	£	£
Shop stock	29,933	33,235
Bar stock	2,594	4,122
	32,527	37,357

21 **Financial instruments**

Group	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	117,130	122,924
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at fair value through profit or loss		
Measured at amortised cost	270,322	100,248

Financial instruments Charity	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	166,663	116,104
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	263,389	89,135

22 **Debtors**

Group

Amounts falling due within one year:	**2021** **£**	**2020** **£**
Trade debtors	57,225	57,963
Other debtors	73,910	65,602
Prepayments and accrued income	30,465	3,332
	161,600	126,897

Debtors

Charity

Amounts falling due within one year:	**2021** **£**	**2020** **£**
Trade debtors	53,961	51,143
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	52,797	-
Other debtors	68,278	64,961
Prepayments and accrued income	30,465	3,332
	205,501	119,436

23 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Group

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Bank loans	25	5,000	-
Other taxation and social security		9,671	15,298
Deferred income	26	595	-
Trade creditors		44,810	20,990
Other creditors		3,218	4,661
Accruals and deferred income		172,294	74,597
		235,588	115,546

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Charity

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Bank loans	25	5,000	-
Other taxation and social security		9,671	15,298
Trade creditors		41,487	14,657
Other creditors		3,218	4,661
Accruals and deferred income		168,684	69,817
		228,060	104,433

24 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

Group and charity

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Bank loans	25	45,000	-

25 Loans and overdrafts

Group and charity

	2021 £	2020 £
Bank loans	50,000	-
Payable within one year	5,000	-
Payable after one year	45,000	-

25 Loans and overdrafts (Continued)

Long-term loans are secured by a fixed charge over the investment property, 15 Queen Street.

This year, the Charity obtain a bounceback loan to aid cashflow. The loan was taken out in September 2020 for a term of 72 months to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. It will be repaid in equal instalments of £833 a month at a fixed interest rate of 2.5%. The amount is not secured over any of the charity's assets.

26 Deferred income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other deferred income	595	-

27 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit and loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £27,908 (2020: £26,052).

28 Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
First Site Development Appeal	*1,251*	-	*(1,251)*	-
Artwork fund	*79,400*	-	-	*79,400*
Collectors Group - Artists support	*22,082*	*1,951*	-	*24,033*
Tate - Circuit	*437*	-	-	*437*
Refugee Action Restaurant	*1,912*	-	-	*1,912*
The Britishness project	*9,472*	-	-	*9,472*
Royal Opera House	*1,094*	-	-	*1,094*
Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust	*2,000*	-	-	*2,000*
Youth Music	*25,349*	-	*(16,594)*	*8,755*
Children in Need	*1,774*	-	*(1,774)*	-
Percil Bilton Charity	*500*	-	-	*500*
New Geographies - Wysing	*(3,151)*	-	*(5,000)*	*(8,151)*
Garfield Weston Lighting	*37,334*	-	*(2,640)*	*34,694*
Arts Council Collection	*10,580*	*121,564*	*(143,127)*	*(10,983)*
Holiday Fun	*54,430*	*15,966*	*(70,838)*	*(442)*
Black Essex	*26,825*	-	*(3,536)*	*23,289*
Art Fund	*6,969*	-	-	*6,969*
NHS COVID project	-	*30,000*	-	*30,000*
ArtFund & BBC Commissioning	-	*10,000*	-	*10,000*
Holiday Fund Easter 21	-	*15,180*	*(3,287)*	*11,893*
The Great Big Art Exhibition	-	-	*(17,247)*	*(17,247)*
Other	*3,598*	-	*(5)*	*3,593*
	281,856	194,661	(265,299)	211,219

28 Restricted funds (Continued)

Firstsite Development Appeal
This relates to fixed assets purchased out of funds raised following a specific campaign for the of Firstsite.

Artwork Fund
This relates to works of art donated to the gallery which are held as heritage assets.

Collectors Group Artist Support
Funds raised by the Collectors' Group through Membership fees and special events to be used to support artists with the Collectors Group annual bursary awards and to contribute to Firstsite exhibition fundraising projects.

Refugee Action Restaurant (The Peoples postcode lottery)
Working with Syrian Refugee Community, providing facilities to enable people to mix; developing transferable skills & achieving qualifications.

Britishness Project
Supporting Learning & Education activities working with young people across Essex in a variety of educational settings to produce a set of works both authored and created by young people from national collections which give a high profile platform for young people's interpretations of British Values Britishness.

Coode-Adams Firstsite Trust Retail
Donation to support the commissioning of artist merchandise for sales in the gallery shop.

Youth Music
To expand young people's musical understanding, expression and skills including improvisation, experimentation, listening, composition and performance and developing technical skills in the use of digital technology and software. The project supports participants in engaging with, and collaborating with, a range of other community groups and develop their emotional and psychological capabilities particularly confidence, empathy, self-awareness and creativity.

New Geographies - Wysing Arts
The East Contemporary Visual Arts Network (ECVAN) launched New Geographies in May 2018, a three-year partnership between nine arts organisations in the East of England ECVAN asked people to nominate overlooked or unexpected places in the region that they find meaningful and interesting to them. The exhibition that was produced in collaboration with artist susan pui san lok focussed upon the persecution of men and women in Essex who were branded as witches. This project continues into but has been delayed owing to lockdown and the deficit is due to this delay and timing differences, a further funding payment is due later in 2021.

Garfield Weston Foundation

Firstsite was awarded part funding to support a lighting renewal programme within the gallery areas of the building. These funds are due to be utilised in 2021/22.

28 **Restricted funds** (Continued)

Arts Council Collection - National Partners Programme

Year two of a three-year funded programme by Arts Council England's National Contemporary Art Collection. The programme consists of several exhibitions that are co-curated by community groups in Colchester, which explores their experiences of life in the United Kingdom, be it cultural, social, or political. It explores and challenges widely held perceptions about identity and diversity. Exhibitions include content produced in partnership with community groups and drawing upon the extensive national collection of contemporary art held by Arts Council England. Final funding is due during 2021-22 financial year for the final year of the project. In addition, Black Essex funds and NHS Covid project part fund the project as part of the matched funding requirement from the funder.

Holiday Fun

This programme is open to all families, but especially those who access support with free school meals. The project consists of a canteen offering a selection of hot food, art activities and engagement and sport activities run by trained coaches. During the financial year the project has been funded by Essex Community Fund, Active Essex.

Black Essex

Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, the Black Essex exhibition represents a positive assertion of 'black artists' working presence in the UK. Raising the profile of their artistic dignity, inventive use of a visual language reflecting the artists experiences of living and working in a society in which a person with black skin is often considered inferior.

ArtFund

A small project grant to support a collaborative touring project across the Arts Council England's - National Partners Programme, with programme partners Newlyn and Sunderland contemporary art galleries.

NHS COVID Project - Art for Life

A fund from the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group who approached Firstsite to make a project that recorded the COVID-19 experiences of NHS key workers. The project started with a simple question: 'Tell us about your experience of the pandemic.' Artist-led workshops with participating key workers supported by an NHS art psychotherapist, will form the content of the exhibition and will include artworks loaned from the Arts Council Collection. This exhibition will be shown in 2021/22

Art Fund - Culture in Quarantine

A project to support Art Fund and the BBC in the R&D period towards a 'Culture in Quarantine' landmark art commission. Firstsite was part of a project team alongside Art Fund and BBC; provide advice and insight. The project will continue and Firstsite will collaborate on a prospect list of artists; manage the relationship with the artists, support with delivering initial ideas to put forward to the project team.

The Great Art Exhibition

Funded by Arts Council Collection, Firstsite created a national digital art exhibition online. The artworks are created by members of the public based around themes. The project required development of our website to enable thousands of artworks to be viewed online. The exhibition is also being displayed within the gallery during 2021/22. Funding for this project has been received after the 31 March 2021.

29 **Analysis of net assets between funds**
Group

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	35,621	-	35,621
Heritage assets	-	79,400	79,400
Investment properties	175,000	-	175,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	255,139	131,803	386,942
Long term liabilities	(45,000)	-	(45,000)
	420,760	211,203	631,963

Analysis of net assets between funds
Charity

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	35,620	-	35,620
Heritage assets	-	79,400	79,400
Investment properties	175,000	-	175,000
Investments	100	-	100
Current assets/(liabilities)	211,400	131,803	343,203
Long-term liabilities	(45,000)		(45,000)
	377,120	211,203	588,323

30 **Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities**
Group and charity

The investment property, 15 Queen Street, was purchased with the aid of a grant. The terms of this grant state that Firstsite Limited might have to repay the donor their share of the net proceeds of the future sale of the property. Should the property be sold for its current net book value, Firstsite Limited may potentially be required to repay £100,000.

31 **Operating lease commitments**
At the reporting end date the group had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	2,071	1,385
Between two and five years	3,279	2,859
	5,350	4,244

32 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel
The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	67,993	71,427

During the year the charity received income from an entity with a common trustee of £34,500 (2020: £24,000). At the year end £nil (2020: £12,000) is outstanding.

33 Auditors ethical standards

The relevant circumstances requiring disclosure in accordance with the requirements of APB Ethical Standard - Provisions Available for Small Entities are that, in common with many charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the accounts.

34 Cash generated from operations

	2021	2020
	£	£
Surplus for the year	263,197	27,272
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in profit or loss	(1)	(3)
Fair value gains and losses on investment properties	-	20,000
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	25,671	41,028
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in stocks	4,830	1,613
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(34,703)	88,619
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	114,447	(137,494)
Increase in deferred income	595	-
Cash generated from operations	374,036	41,035

35 **Analysis of changes in net funds**

	At 1 April 2020	Cash flows	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	31,401	397,002	428,403
Loans falling due within one year	-	(5,000)	(5,000)
Loans falling due after more than one year	-	(45,000)	(45,000)
	31,401	347,002	378,403