

Registered number: 03320404
Charity number: 1061531

Rural Action Derbyshire

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025



Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

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Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees	Mr W Tudor Jones, Chair (appointed 29 October 2024), Vice chair (until 29 October 2024) Mr R A Grant, Treasurer (appointed 12 November 2024) (appointed 30 July 2024) Mrs A W Montacute, Chair (resigned 29 October 2024) Mr M J Haynes, Treasurer (resigned 29 October 2024) (resigned 31 March 2025) Mr S G Taylor (resigned 30 July 2024) Mr R N E Walsh Mrs A Wheelton, Vice Chair (appointed 29 October 2024) Ms V E Broom Mr R A Bennett Mr P D Dewhurst, Vice Chair (appointed 29 October 2024) Mr P Miles Ms F J Brookes (resigned 11 April 2024)
Company registered number	03320404
Charity registered number	1061531
Registered office	Town Hall Bank Road Matlock DE4 3NN
Chief executive officer	Ms E Simpson
Accountants	Dains Audit Limited Suite 2, Albion House 2 Etruria Office Village Forge Lane Stoke on Trent Staffordshire ST1 5RQ

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

Rural Action Derbyshire's aim is to ensure the well-being of the people who live and work in rural Derbyshire and that they are not unduly disadvantaged.

Their mission statement is:

We believe that no-one should be unfairly disadvantaged because they live in a rural area.

Their strategic objectives are:

- To help remove barriers that prevent people from taking up opportunities, living well and participating in daily life.
- To enable communities to develop more control, protect and develop community assets, and build resilience and community spirit.
- To address rural disadvantage, particularly for vulnerable or low-income groups.
- To support rural economic development and sustainable rural communities.
- To grow and develop Rural Action Derbyshire to secure its future sustainability.

It does this:

- By providing direct services to help people and groups in rural communities.
- By raising awareness of the issues faced by rural communities.

Rural Action Derbyshire is one of 38 rural community councils in England and is a member of Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE).

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

Chair's Statement

It is my honour to introduce and present the Annual Report for Rural Action Derbyshire.

The last year has brought significant changes in our leadership team. Our Chief Executive Officer, Bev Parker retired after 10 years of amazing service and dedication to be replaced by Emma Simpson. This was after a comprehensive national search and recruitment exercise. A few months later our Finance Manager, Claire Symonds retired after 5 years of service and commitment to the charity. A strategy of succession planning occurred with the appointment of Debra Weetman.

We also conveyed our huge thanks and gratitude to John Haynes, Trustee and Treasurer for 17 years. John was replaced by Robin Grant as a new trustee and qualified accountant with significant commercial finance experience.

Sadly, due to changes introduced by a trusted provider, we were unable to continue to provide the Community Oil Buying Scheme – a service that was much appreciated by many people who had no alternative to oil to heat their homes. We continue to work to develop a viable alternative to this which we hope to introduce later this year.

Our projects continue to deliver to, and in many cases exceed commissioner requirements. I and the board of trustees convey our sincere thanks to all Rural Action Derbyshire colleagues and volunteers in their unstinting work to reduce rural inequalities. I convey my gratitude to all our commissioners in the public sector and offer our support in their strategic objectives in whatever way we can.

The achievements of the organisation and the projects we provide are significant and the board will assure and challenge that the charity is run in line with Charity Commission and all other legal requirements.

William Tudor Jones
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Tudor Jones', written over a horizontal line.

Objectives and activities (continued)

Chief Executive's Report

I was delighted to be appointed Chief Executive of Rural Action Derbyshire in January 2025, following the departure of Beverley Parker. Bev leaves behind a strong legacy, an organisation with an excellent reputation among funders, partners, and stakeholders. As the Chair notes in his report, our projects often exceed the expectations of commissioners. Bev's steady leadership helped steer RAD through the uncertainties of recent years, and I am fully committed to building on that foundation to ensure the organisation remains at the forefront of tackling rural issues.

The period covered by this report reflects a time of both consolidation and quiet transformation. The RAD team has continued to respond to the complex and evolving needs of rural communities while seeking new opportunities to address entrenched disadvantage.

The challenges facing rural Derbyshire remain significant. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis has had a sustained impact, particularly in areas where poverty is more hidden and dispersed, making it harder to reach with conventional support. Fuel poverty, digital exclusion, social isolation and limited access to essential services continue to shape the lives of many. Yet this year has once again highlighted the strength and resilience of our rural communities and the value of RAD's practical, locally rooted response.

Throughout this period, our projects have continued to deliver meaningful impact. We have deepened partnerships across the county and strengthened our role as a trusted advocate for Derbyshire's rural voice.

Since stepping into the CEO role, I have been focused on ensuring RAD's long-term sustainability, developing a new strategic plan and securing income that protects our independence and enables us to act where we are most needed. We are also reaffirming RAD's core values, particularly around collaboration, inclusion, equity, and integrity, so that we remain a relevant, responsive, and compassionate organisation in an ever-changing rural landscape.

I would like to thank our staff, trustees and supporters. Their commitment and passion are what make RAD the organisation it is. I look to the year ahead with optimism and a strong sense of purpose.



Emma Simpson
CEO

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit

Aim: To help remove barriers that prevent people from taking up opportunities, living well and participating in daily life.

Wheels to Work

Lack of rail & bus provision between key destinations, and no subsidies in rural areas, means access to work, apprenticeships and training is significantly more expensive than in urban areas. This makes rural residents more reliant on cars. The Department for Transport found that 50% of rural people live in areas with the poorest accessibility to services.

Wheels to Work breaks down barriers through providing bicycles, e-bikes and mopeds for those in need in Derbyshire. Over the past year, we have supported 19 new riders on mopeds, 2 on e-bikes, and 7 with bicycles.

Overall with new and retained clients we supported 43 beneficiaries.

Digital Inclusion

Whether it's accessing your bank account, chatting to friends or family, or getting the supermarket shop delivered to your door, we are living in an increasingly digital world. Poor access to reliable broadband, and a lack of information on how to get started with technology continue to act as barriers to accessing the opportunities the virtual sphere can provide. In fact, many residents in Derbyshire have still never used the internet.

Digital Support Derbyshire aims to reduce the county's digital divide by creating a network dedicated to helping people connect safely with their communities. This network consists of individuals committed in some way to tackling this divide, including our Digital Champions, who have received training to provide the necessary guidance to get more people online.

We launched the DSD Small Grants, funding 13 projects (£47.6k awarded); held 2 grant panel meetings; finalised criteria, application processes, agreements, and payment systems. Coordinated 4 network meetings with various speakers and a Q&A on the new scheme. Contract-managed the Device Refurbishing Scheme with PCrefurb, distributing 131 devices and SIMs to Derbyshire inclusion groups and individuals. Coordinated 3 steering groups, developed an online digital map, and released a Digital Exclusion training pack online. Launched a Digital Health Project with The Bureau at Glossop.

We have 120 groups listed in the Digital network map supporting 1800 digitally excluded individuals

Objectives and activities (continued)

Communities Against Scams

Communities Against Scams has strengthened local collaboration through six quarterly meetings with the PCC partnership manager and seven sessions with Derbyshire Police fraud officers. In October 2024, we launched a dedicated webpage—refreshed in February 2025—to share best-practice advice and resources.

The project maintained visibility at county shows and hosted 16 grassroots awareness events, engaging 230 community groups. National observances like Safer Internet Day and Scams Awareness Week featured daily social-media campaigns, while ongoing outreach has extended scams training to village halls, food-bank partners and digital-inclusion grantees.

Aim: To enable communities to develop more control, protect and develop community assets and build resilience and community spirit.

Community Buildings Advisory Service

For over a century, community buildings have acted as vital social hubs for rural people. In fact, research by ACRE has found that in 60% of villages, community halls are the only place for people to meet in the area. Yet these hubs are still facing challenges post-covid, with volunteers finding it difficult to deal with the financial and operational impacts of such a difficult period.

We provided tailored advice to individual community buildings assisting them with their specific issues and concerns. Advice and support were also provided to other organizations, such as Parish Councils, district Community Voluntary Services, and other local charities.

Our monthly newsletter and e-bulletins (44) were distributed to 322 Community Buildings stakeholders.

There were 60 new affiliates in 2024 which continue into 2025

There was also a focus on Energy and environment with 25 on-site energy audits completed and 29 media resources distributed.

Aim: To address rural disadvantage particularly for vulnerable, marginalised or low-income groups.

The Willow Project

Domestic abuse is still alarmingly prevalent throughout the country. In rural areas, this abuse can last 25% longer than in urban areas, as many victims are isolated and cut off from support services, and are living in "traditional, patriarchal communities that control and subjugate women", according to the National Rural Crime Network.

Over the past year, The Willow Project trained 82 champions across Derbyshire and delivered talks to 20 school staff at Killamarsh Jnr School. We went to ten in-person and virtual events—including a Bakewell Livestock Market—and launched a public event to mark 16 Days of Activism. We relaunched the Podcast in March which has already driven over 100 listens, boosting total plays to 444. A virtual meet-up united all champions, gathering fresh insights to guide future outreach and support to raise awareness about rural domestic abuse. Emma Simpson was a key note speaker at the National Rural Crime Network Conference in London in March to highlight why rural is different when it comes to domestic abuse.

Objectives and activities (continued)

Feeding Derbyshire

With the cost of groceries continuing to rise, an increasing number of people have been forced to rely on food banks for their weekly meals. This challenge is even more pressing in rural communities, where there is often a lack of budget supermarkets and cheaper alternatives.

This year we rolled out a new membership model, now at 277 members, and published a community pantry evaluation report. Seven new pantries joined, raising the network to 15; pantry membership climbed from 2,953 to 3,785 and weekly shopper numbers from 624 to 813. We hosted four Steering Group meetings and two sustainability webinars on food supply and budgeting. A full website refresh introduced an interactive map of 64 providers, spotlights features, regular newsletters, a WhatsApp forum, and our first food-provider survey, which captured data on 11,000 meals distributed in Q1. In all we achieved £1m savings for shoppers.

Rural Hardship Fund and Oil Bank

The Rural Hardship Fund was able to continue with funding from Marches Energy Agency, via their Fuel for Food project (which is funding by DCC's Household Support Fund) and we launched the new fund in September. It has supported referrals from CAB, Social Services and some Women's refuges with fuel, essential household items or other essentials. In total we spent £20.3k supporting clients. Most of the clients were very thankful for the support given and the referrers gave very positive feedback in how we ran the scheme, relatively quickly supporting their clients with what they needed.

Aim: To support rural economic and community development

Derbyshire is a predominantly rural county with 77% of the area classed as rural. Rural areas present particular challenges from an economic development perspective and Rural Action Derbyshire understands these challenges well. We are a key partner with statutory and private sector economic partnerships and a source of knowledge and insight into rural communities.

Rural Housing Enablement

Working with Midlands Rural Housing, contact has been made via DALC with parish councils asking if they are interested in carrying out a Housing Needs Survey (HNS) for their community. We have produced website content, an email newsletter, a leaflet, banners, blogs and social media activity. We held 4 well-attended Steering Group meetings, participated in a national study commissioned by ACRE carried out CCRI and discussed changes to the Planning Policy Framework and the Peak District NPA consultation on a proposed new Local Plan. Six local authorities across the Derbyshire/Staffordshire patch attended as well as a representative from Derbyshire Association of Local Councils and one registered provider (Trent & Dove). The RHE for Derbyshire engaged with parish councils in Edale, Hope, Repton and Doveridge and 3 potential Rural Exception Sites identified in Doveridge, Biggin and Edale. Ashover PC have expressed interest in a HNS but are waiting to review the outcome of NEDDC Local Plan call to sites.

Awareness is growing and we are pleased with the progress being made.

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

Unrestricted Funds

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted reserves, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level that equates to approximately three months of total expenditure. As at 31 March 2025 free reserves amount to £151,924 (2024 - £111,524). The charity has carried higher levels of unrestricted funds due to a property sale in previous years. The majority of the funds are set aside as designated funds to cover future redundancy liability and to cover the pension liability risk outlined in note 19.

Restricted Funds

Sufficient reserves should be retained under each of the restricted reserves to meet the company's obligations under that fund.

Quarterly management information is presented to the Management Board and there are four formal board meetings each year. Sub-committees are called between the Board Meetings to consider issues as and when they arise. In addition, the Chairperson has regular contact with the Chief Executive Officer, the Treasurer and the Finance Manager.

Grant Making

Rural Action Derbyshire is not a grant-making body but sometimes it is asked to administer small grant funds on behalf of funders.

Funders

The company directors wish to thank all those who contributed to the company's income in 2024/25. A list of the principal funders may be found on the last page of this report. Their support is greatly valued.

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Established in 1924, Rural Action Derbyshire, formerly Derbyshire Rural Community Council, is an independent organisation and registered charity operating across the county. Its legal name is Rural Action Derbyshire which is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act, and is also registered as a charity. The company was formed to take over the charitable activities of Derbyshire Rural Community Council and did so with effect from 1 April 1997.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The company's Articles of Association require the Board to consist of such honorary officers and other members as shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

All the company directors (Trustees) hold office for a minimum term of three years to a maximum term of nine years. Any member of Rural Action Derbyshire can also stand for election as a company director provided he/she is properly nominated and seconded by other members.

Company directors (Trustees) holding office during the period are listed on page 1 of this report. None of the company directors has a service contract with the company.

c. Financial risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees have implemented a risk management strategy which comprises:

- A quarterly review of the risks which the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise potential impact on the charity should any of the risks materialise.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mr W Tudor Jones

Chair of Trustees

Date:

29 October 2025



Rural Action Derbyshire

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes 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 period. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Mr W Tudor Jones

Chair of Trustees

Date:

29 October 2025



Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Rural Action Derbyshire ('the charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rural Action Derbyshire
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Independent Examiner's Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Use of this report

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.



Signed:

Dated: 31.10.25

Simon Hawkins FCA

Dains Audit Limited
Suite, Albion House
2 Etruria Village
Forge Lane
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 5RQ

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	23,178	1,040	24,218	4,648
Charitable activities	4	80,833	709,303	790,136	610,268
Investments	5	15,733	-	15,733	9,228
Total income		119,744	710,343	830,087	624,144
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	79,344	637,776	717,120	784,107
Total expenditure		79,344	637,776	717,120	784,107
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		40,400	72,567	112,967	(159,963)
Net movement in funds		40,400	72,567	112,967	(159,963)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		111,524	324,635	436,159	596,122
Net movement in funds		40,400	72,567	112,967	(159,963)
Total funds carried forward		151,924	397,202	549,126	436,159

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 17 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 03320404

Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Debtors	11	75,294	37,074
Cash at bank and in hand		683,794	647,757
		<u>759,088</u>	<u>684,831</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(193,556)	(225,856)
Net current assets		<u>565,532</u>	<u>458,975</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>565,532</u>	<u>458,975</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(10,511)	(20,756)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>555,021</u>	<u>438,219</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	(5,895)	(2,060)
Total net assets		<u><u>549,126</u></u>	<u><u>436,159</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	14	397,202	324,635
Unrestricted funds	14	151,924	111,524
Total funds		<u><u>549,126</u></u>	<u><u>436,159</u></u>

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 03320404

Balance sheet (continued)
As at 31 March 2025

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mr W Tudor Jones
Chair of Trustees

Date:

29 October 2025

Registered number: 03320404



The notes on pages 17 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

Rural Action Derbyshire
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	30,952	(17,313)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	15,733	9,228
Net cash provided by investing activities	15,733	9,228
Cash flows from financing activities		
Repayments of borrowing	(10,648)	(10,648)
Net cash used in financing activities	(10,648)	(10,648)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	36,037	(18,733)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	647,757	666,490
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	683,794	647,757

The notes on pages 17 to 34 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. General information

Rural Action Derbyshire is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. Its registered office is Town Hall, Bank Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3NN.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Rural Action Derbyshire meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from the signing of these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfillment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the 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 charitable purposes.

2.7 Pensions

The company makes pension contributions to The Pension Trust's Growth Plan, a multi-employer defined benefits scheme, the assets of which are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. Normal contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) in the period in which they are payable to the scheme. The pension liability is the responsibility of the Pensions Trust which has identified the assets/liabilities of the scheme that are attributable to the charity. The pension surplus/(deficit) is calculated based on the net present value of future deficit payments over a set term which is currently 9 years as required by FRS 102.

The unwinding of the discount is treated as an interest expense within the SOFA and gains/losses on re-measurement of the surplus/deficit are shown within the SOFA under other recognised gains and losses.

The company also makes pension contributions to personal pension plans as appropriate to the employee. Contributions are charged to the SOFA when due.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.9 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.11 Liabilities

Liabilities and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

2.12 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Donations	23,178	1,040	24,218

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	3,532	1,116	4,648

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Project income, funding agreements and grants	73,937	698,487	772,424
Earned income	6,896	10,816	17,712
	80,833	709,303	790,136

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Project income, funding agreements and grants	74,130	529,497	603,627
Earned income	6,411	230	6,641
	80,541	529,727	610,268

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Bank interest received	15,733	15,733

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Bank interest received	9,228	9,228

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Charitable activities	79,344	637,776	717,120

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Charitable activities	123,116	660,991	784,107

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Charitable activities	598,298	118,822	717,120

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Charitable activities	691,966	92,141	784,107

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	360,244	384,082
Rural Accessibility	48,301	127,366
Grants & Donations	71,505	19,205
Travel	3,515	4,946
Freelance & Consultancy fees	26,715	62,853
Affiliation fees	8,656	8,527
Publicity	16,337	17,257
Community Development	63,025	67,730
	598,298	691,966

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Premises and office costs	23,391	25,014
Staff Training	918	1,406
Bank charges and interest	946	1,124
Insurance	3,914	3,678
Irrecoverable VAT	-	5,402
IT & Professional Fees	83,098	50,050
Legal fees	346	757
Governance costs	6,209	4,710
	<u>118,822</u>	<u>92,141</u>

8. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the charity's annual accounts	<u>4,250</u>	<u>4,250</u>

9. Staff costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	316,761	337,867
Social security costs	21,572	26,012
Contribution to defined benefit pension schemes	21,911	20,203
	<u>360,244</u>	<u>384,082</u>

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

9. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

2025	2024
No.	No.
15	15
<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Key Management Remuneration

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employment benefits of the key management personnel were £51,288 (2024 - £52,843).

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £NIL).

11. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	41,382	562
Prepayments and accrued income	33,912	36,512
	<u>75,294</u>	<u>37,074</u>

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	10,247	9,994
Trade creditors	6,718	35,642
Other taxation and social security	5,698	6,183
Other creditors	10,560	10,235
Accruals and deferred income	160,333	163,802
	<u>193,556</u>	<u>225,856</u>
	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	151,233	-
Resources deferred during the year	148,043	151,233
Amounts released from previous periods	(151,233)	-
	<u>148,043</u>	<u>151,233</u>

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	<u>10,511</u>	<u>20,756</u>
Included within the above are amounts falling due as follows:		
	2025 £	2024 £
Between one and five years		
Bank loans	<u>10,511</u>	<u>20,756</u>

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	111,524	114,099	(55,455)	(18,244)	151,924
Community Buildings	-	2,346	(17,639)	15,293	-
Oil Buying	-	3,299	(6,250)	2,951	-
	<u>111,524</u>	<u>119,744</u>	<u>(79,344)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,924</u>
Restricted funds					
3D	263	-	(74)	-	189
Wheels 2 Work	60,677	128,426	(110,093)	-	79,010
Rural Poverty	247,479	248,295	(248,798)	-	246,976
Digital Champions	3,483	145,237	(113,891)	-	34,829
Willow Project	9,005	40,496	(45,290)	-	4,211
Hardship Fund	1,707	10	(773)	-	944
Oil Bank	2,021	-	-	-	2,021
Fuel for Food	-	50,000	(39,591)	-	10,409
Digital awareness scams	-	40,000	(22,709)	-	17,291
Rural Housing Enablement	-	57,879	(56,557)	-	1,322
	<u>324,635</u>	<u>710,343</u>	<u>(637,776)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>397,202</u>
Total of funds	<u>436,159</u>	<u>830,087</u>	<u>(717,120)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>549,126</u>

Rural Action Derbyshire
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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	141,339	93,301	(123,116)	111,524
Restricted funds				
Suicide and self-harm awareness	12,058	-	(12,058)	-
3D	323	-	(60)	263
Wheels 2 Work	143,819	175,946	(259,088)	60,677
Rural Poverty	243,821	256,702	(253,044)	247,479
Digital Champions	28,847	45,992	(71,356)	3,483
Willow Project	4,163	46,029	(41,187)	9,005
Hardship Fund	19,731	46	(18,070)	1,707
Oil Bank	2,021	-	-	2,021
Rural Housing Enablement	-	6,128	(6,128)	-
	454,783	530,843	(660,991)	324,635
Total of funds	596,122	624,144	(784,107)	436,159

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Unrestricted Funds

General Funds

The general funds represent the unrestricted funds of the charity that are not designated for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds

Suicide and self-harm awareness

Funding to raise awareness surrounding suicide and self-harm.

3D

Support for Derbyshire Voluntary sector infrastructure.

Wheels 2 Work

Funding to support access to transport.

Rural Poverty

Funding to help deliver agreed financial inclusion and food poverty projects.

Digital Champions/awareness

Funding to support communities in becoming more digitally inclusive.

Willow Project

To deliver rural domestic abuse awareness training and events in Derbyshire.

Hardship Fund/Fuel for food

Rural hardship fund provides one-off small grants to people in rural areas experiencing financial difficulties.

Oil Bank

To provide a one-off delivery of heating oil to those in fuel crisis.

Rural Housing Enablement

Funding to employ a part time Rural Housing Engagement Officer.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Current assets	216,903	542,185	759,088
Creditors due within one year	(48,573)	(144,983)	(193,556)
Creditors due in more than one year	(10,511)	-	(10,511)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(5,895)	-	(5,895)
Total	151,924	397,202	549,126

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Current assets	360,196	324,635	684,831
Creditors due within one year	(225,856)	-	(225,856)
Creditors due in more than one year	(20,756)	-	(20,756)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(2,060)	-	(2,060)
Total	111,524	324,635	436,159

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	112,967	(159,963)
Adjustments for:		
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(38,220)	12,302
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(32,553)	141,230
Interest from investments	(15,733)	(9,228)
Interest	656	865
Contributions to pension deficit	(2,099)	(2,519)
Unrealised gain on pension deficit	5,934	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	30,952	(17,313)

17. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand	683,794	647,757
Total cash and cash equivalents	683,794	647,757

18. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash changes £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	647,757	36,037	-	683,794
Debt due within 1 year	(9,994)	10,648	(10,901)	(10,247)
Debt due after 1 year	(20,756)	-	10,245	(10,511)
	617,007	46,685	(656)	663,036

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

19. Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined benefit pension scheme. However, the scheme is a multiple employer scheme and the charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities.

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 521 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2023. This valuation showed assets of £514.9m, liabilities of £531.0m and a deficit of £16.1m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028: £2,100,000 per annum (payable monthly)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 March 2028 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Present values of provision		
Present value of provision	5,895	2,060
	<u>5,895</u>	<u>2,060</u>
	2025 £	2024 £
Reconciliation of opening and closing provision		
Provision at the start of period	2,060	4,408
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	54	168
Deficit contribution paid	(2,099)	(2,519)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	36	3
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	5,844	-
	<u>5,895</u>	<u>2,060</u>
	2025 £	2024 £
Deficit contributions schedule		
Interest expense	54	168
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	37	3
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	5,844	-
Contributions paid in respect of future service*	-	-
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

*includes defined contribution schemes and future service contributions (i.e. excluding any deficit reduction payments) to defined benefit schemes which are treated as defined contribution schemes.

Rate of discount

2025: 4.84%

2024: 5.31%

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Year 1	2,103	2,060
Year 2	2,103	-
Year 3	2,103	-
	<u>6,309</u>	<u>2,060</u>

The company must recognise a liability measured as the present value of the contributions payable that arise from the deficit recovery agreement and the resulting expense in the income and expenditure account i.e. the unwinding of the discount rate as a finance cost in the period in which it arises.

It is these contributions that have been used to derive the company's balance sheet liability.

20. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2025 the charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than 1 year	16,118	15,096
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	7,082	20,644
	<u>23,200</u>	<u>35,740</u>

21. Related party transactions

The charity has had no related party transactions during the year.

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

22. Main Funders 2024 - 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Action for Communities in Rural England	57,879	6,128
Bolsover District Council	2,265	2,265
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs	44,200	44,200
Derbyshire County Council	449,505	346,440
Derbyshire Community Foundation	3,500	-
Derbyshire Dales District Council	4,933	4,542
Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner	80,000	40,000
Donations to Hardship Fund	10	46
Donations to Food and Fuel Poverty	1,030	270
Feeding Derbyshire	-	4,050
National Rural Crime Network	-	5,000
NHS Charities Together	-	45,992
North East Derbyshire District Council	2,000	2,000
Marches Energy Agency	50,000	-
South Derbyshire District Council	5,552	5,443
Streetgames	-	52,383
SC Johnson	34,575	-