

**Tees Valley Rural Action  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

"Charity Commission Copy"  
Charity Number: 1080282

Tees Valley Rural Action  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

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**Tees Valley Rural Action Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Legal and Administrative Information**

**Registered Company number:** 3750700 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number:** 1080282

**Registered Office:** Unit 33-34 Cadcam Centre  
High Force Road  
Riverside Park  
Middlesbrough  
TS2 1RH

<b>Trustees:</b>	Brian Wake	Chair
	Minna Ireland	Treasurer
	Valerie Johnston	Vice Chair
	Gemma Baker	Appointed 26 January 2022
	Justine Foxcroft	Appointed 26 January 2022
	Paul Frost	Appointed 26 January 2022
	Tanya Singh	Appointed 26 January 2022
	Helen Zagrovic	Appointed 26 January 2022
	Alexander Sinski	Resigned 27 September 2021
	Janette Holt, MBE	Resigned 31 May 2021
	Hugh Jackson	Resigned 18 June 2021
	Dave Eagle	Resigned 18 June 2021
	Christina Moorhouse	Resigned 19 June 2021

**Chief Executive & Company Secretary:** Rita Lawson

**Bankers:** Yorkshire Bank  
7 Linthorpe Road  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 1RF

**Accountants:** Anderson Barrowcliff LLP  
3 Kingfisher Court  
Bowesfield Park  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 3EX

**Tees Valley Rural Action**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

The Trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Tees Valley Rural Action, (TVRA) is committed to working towards the social, economic, and environmental well-being of rural communities in the Tees Valley and those who live in them. It particularly attempts to identify and address rural disadvantage by working with local groups, individuals, and representatives within communities to enable them to identify and respond to local needs; by providing accurate advice, services, information and support to individuals and local groups; informing and influencing strategic plans of the statutory and voluntary sector and actively participating in national, regional, and local partnerships. The work undertaken by TVRA is such that, not only does it align with its aims and objectives, but also affords the Charity with the ability to influence policy and/or decision makers on rural issues thus ensuring these and many of their associated disadvantages remain high on the agenda.

TVRA focuses its activities on those that directly support individuals and groups within rural communities and, where appropriate, Tees Valley in its entirety. Throughout 2021/2022 TVRA has continued to provide advice, guidance, and support to a broad range of rural groups whilst also delivering Local Authority and other grant funded specific contracts.

TVRA has continued to receive funding from the Department of Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) via the grant in aid contract with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE). This funding is invaluable to the Charity as it enables the core function of the organisation to be realised.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

This reporting year, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 saw the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions meaning that the Charity could get back to delivering most, if not all, of its services. However, the Charity has retained a hybrid working pattern for its staff; 2 days in the office and 3 working from home. TVRA has also continued to deliver its services using a mixture of online, (Zoom and/or Teams) and face-to-face as not all of the Charity's service users have been confident about meeting in large numbers.

Following the total lifting of Covid 19 restrictions, TVRA was able to restart the Mini Bus Group Hire scheme. Demand for the service was slow at first but it became fully operational by mid-June 2021. Unfortunately, the Volunteer Car scheme, despite there being a demand, could not be reinstated due to two main barriers: finance and recruiting volunteers in the wake of Covid.

A core beneficiary group of TVRA, the Village Halls, welcomed the relaxing and final lifting of Covid restrictions. As a consequence, in the early days of this happening TVRA was inundated with enquiries seeking advice on re-opening their facilities in a safe manner. TVRA, with support from ACRE, was able to provide easy to understand guidance on the procedure to follow in re-opening their facility. The advice and guidance have been more than welcomed by enquirers as quite a lot of village halls have, due to Covid, seen some of their management committee volunteers retiring and new ones coming on board. TVRA has remained pivotal in supporting groups to understand their ongoing responsibilities and especially following a truly unprecedented two years of a pandemic.

Information received through the Charity's local, national, and regional networks on policies and topics affecting the sector has continued to be regularly disseminated to its database of small, medium, and large groups through regular e-bulletins.

The following section relates to the main areas of activity covered in the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022:



**Tees Valley Rural Action**  
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**for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**i) Community Development**

- Continued to provide infrastructure support to village halls, voluntary and community groups in rural areas with regular information, advice, and guidance updates. Specifically at the start of the financial year advice, guidance, and support in relation to re-opening following the Covid 19 pandemic.
- The focus of Village Halls work has been advice and guidance on recruiting volunteers for their management committees, reinstating their AGMs following the relaxation during Covid, reviewing policies and procedures.
- Continued to support East Cleveland Good Neighbours, (ECGN) through providing staffing, advice, and guidance. ECGN underwent a review of the services it had been providing throughout the pandemic, supported by TVRA. This exercise was concluded in late summer of 2021. ECGN agreed that it would stop providing the hot meals 3 times per week but would continue to provide a volunteer-led 7 day per week helpline, operate the foodbank and delivering food parcels of essential supplies on specific days of the week, bakers' treat boxes where doorstep health checks could still happen and signpost individuals to other appropriate services and befriending service. ECGN continued to fundraise throughout the year and were successful in securing funding to support a family activity day and healthy meal during the Easter and Summer school holidays. They raised funds of £9,276. The review of ECGN concluded that the volunteers were not ready to become a formally constituted group and so it was agreed TVRA would continue to act, as the accountable body.
- Continued to support the mutual aid group, Ormesby Good Neighbours, (OGN). OGN met for the first time face-to-face in September 2021 to look at their autumn activity and ongoing fundraising. They organised a Christmas wreath making session which again they were able to hold face-to-face rather than following someone on-line. OGN do not want to become a formally constituted group and has requested that TVRA continues to act as the accountable body. OGN has also agreed that there would be a management fee for any fundraising done on their behalf by TVRA.
- Promoted and co-ordinated the 'on tour' of the Tees Valley Rural Blanket. An initiative that took place during lockdown where volunteers from the villages knitted 6-inch squares depicting what Covid 19 meant to them and their village.
- Continued to work with Village Halls, Community Centres and other groups wanting to consider becoming registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or Community Interest Company.
- Entered into discussions with Sirius Minerals Foundation (now known as Woodsmith Foundation) that operates in Redcar and Cleveland and the coastal areas of North Yorkshire for potential financial support. Woodsmith Foundation were concerned that they were not seeing applications from grass roots groups and those that were coming in were of a poor quality. TVRA was approached to look at pulling together training sessions on completing funding applications and to be delivered in the rural areas of East Cleveland. It is anticipated that this activity will take place in the forthcoming financial year, 2022 to 2023.
- Begun working collaboratively with other infrastructure organisations in the Tees Valley to develop a 'KITE' mark for volunteers.

**ii) Community Transport**

Following the lifting of all Covid restrictions TVRA was able to fully restart the Minibus Group Hire scheme without having to look at reduced passenger occupancy. Without having to do any formal re-launch of the scheme the outcomes for the 2021/2022 financial year for the minibus only is listed below together with a comparison for the two previous years:

**Minibus**

	<b>2021/2022</b> <b>(After the pandemic)</b>	<b>2020/2021</b> <b>(During the pandemic)</b>	<b>2019/2020</b> <b>(Pre-pandemic)</b>
<b>Members</b>	16	4	55
<b>Passengers</b>	1,325	115	2,795
<b>Miles</b>	6,820	672	12,314
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	876 @ £9.50 per hour £8,332	90 @ £9 per hour £810	906 @ £9 per hour £8,154
<b>Volunteer Drivers</b>	18	15	76

It is anticipated that the following financial year, 2022/2023, will see a significant increase in both members and use. Consideration will also be given to restarting the Volunteer Car scheme subject to being able to secure external funding.



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**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**iii) Rural Issues**

The Tees Valley rural dimension is a significant driver for most of the Charity's work, and it has continued to make ground in the recognition of this aspect within the sub region. This has been supported through being able to provide copies of TVRA's Rural Evidence Base (republished July 2020). Significantly, the latter was refreshed to include a section on Farming and Agriculture in the Tees Valley. TVRA has continued to raise the rural voice whenever possible at various meetings with existing and new stakeholders. The DEFRA contract, managed through ACRE, has maintained the focus on rural issues, and TVRA has reported back any Tees Valley intelligence relating to that of rural broadband, transport, housing, fuel poverty, neighbourhood planning, community assets, loneliness, and isolation, as well as other wider rural community concerns. TVRA has continued its in year membership with the Rural Services Network, Voluntary Organisations Network North East, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership and the Tees Valley Infrastructure Partnership. To further our case of raising the rural voice, new and renewed connections have been made with the local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton on Tees, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust, Social Prescribing Academy, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Teesside Community Foundation, and North East and Cumbria Integrated Care System.

**iv) Other**

➤ **Support for East Cleveland Villages BIG Local Partnership**

TVRA has continued to act as the Locally Trusted Organisation for the East Cleveland Villages BIG Local Partnership, (ECVBL). Principally acting as the Accountable Body for the £1.2m funds allocated in 2013 to deliver their investment plan and providing the secretariat for their meetings. The Partnership's new Plan was approved in February 2021 with an operational end date of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Unfortunately, delivery and spend on the new plan has been slow in this reporting period. However, the Partnership has taken on board some new members, entered into discussions with East Cleveland Good Neighbours, (ECGN) about coming together as one entity. The momentum for developing the themes of the new Plan, finalising discussions with ECGN started in earnest toward the latter part of January 2022. It is anticipated that delivery and spend will accelerate in the 2022/2023 financial year.

➤ **Skelton Village Townscape Heritage**

This was a Partnership of Skelton Villages Civic Pride, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and TVRA. The Round 2 Heritage Lottery application, with a total scheme cost of £1,528,248 of which the Heritage Lottery Fund were being asked to contribute £952,200 was submitted in March 2016. Following some minor queries during the approval process, the Partnership received notification that the application had been successful in June 2016. The Heritage Lottery funding was to be available from the time of the approval up to and including January 2019 but due to issues relating to recruitment of shop owners, an extension of September 2020 was agreed with Heritage lottery. TVRA continues to be a member of the Partnership Board, the project delivery team and employer of the Project Manager for the duration of the delivery phase of the scheme. Both Phases of the scheme were fully completed in October 2021.

➤ **Tees Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Trust**

In the absence of a Local Infrastructure Organisation, (LIO) in Darlington and the relationships that have been nurtured within Darlington over the last 3 years, TVRA was asked to be the Accountable body for a grant fund. The grant pot was classed as 'non-recurring' and therefore a 'one-off' opportunity for Darlington's voluntary sector to apply for a grant. The criteria and application form were agreed in collaboration with TEWV and other LIOs in the Tees Valley. The funds were specifically for increasing/sustaining the Voluntary and Community Sector capacity within Mental Health following Covid and as part of the NHS Community Transformation Programme.

By end of August 2021 8 projects were approved and offer letters issued for total of £75,361 in grant awards. The projects are expected to complete in the financial year 2022/2023



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- **Beat the Street Redcar & Cleveland** – TVRA was awarded £200 to help support Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council to promote a free event running for 6 weeks from 2<sup>nd</sup> March – 13<sup>th</sup> April. The event also ran in the Stockton area and whilst TVRA promoted the initiative no financial support was received. At TVRA we were really pleased to note that in both local authority areas the rural areas were also included in the borough wide games. The initiative was really successful, and the end results are still available on the following:  
  
<https://www.beatthestreet.me/redcargcleveland/>  
<https://www.beatthestreet.me/stockton-on-tees/>
- TVRA, together with the 4 other Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIO) in the Tees Valley, was commissioned to map out the Employability Services provision across the Tees Valley. TVRA undertook this for Darlington.
- TVRA, together with the 4 other LIOs in the Tees Valley, were commissioned via Catalyst Stockton on Tees to map out Refugee and Asylum Seeker service provision across the Tees Valley. TVRA undertook this for Darlington and the first part of this commission has been completed with the second part expected to take place in the financial year 2022/2023.
- **East Cleveland BIG Jubilee Festival** – Skinningrove Village Hall led, and bought together, a new partnership to look at celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The festival was to focused on the heritage of the area, specifically focusing on the Ironstone Museum, and celebrating through education, art, music, and dance. Funding bids were submitted by Cleveland Ironstone Museum, as led by the managing partner, to the Arts Council for £10k and to ECVBL. Both bids were successful. TVRA was a partner in terms of attending the meetings on behalf of ECVBL and TVRA and providing community transport for the weekend of events. The two main events were a roadshow of exhibitions from local community group and schools held across a number of East Cleveland Village Halls/ venues and a celebration dance performed on Skinningrove Jetty. The Partnership has agreed to continue and are now looking at future events such as celebration of the mining history and culture of East Cleveland.
- **Yarm, Eaglescliffe & Parishes Communities, (now known as Stockton Rural Communities)** – Stockton Borough Council, (SBC) as part of their Community Strategy has set up 7 Community Partnerships across the Borough. A senior member of TVRA's staff chairs the Stockton Rural Communities Partnership. This is a partnership that is evolving, and one major achievement is that through TVRA's influence rural communities in this particular catchment are being recognised more. The partnership is supported by one of SBC's Community Engagement Officers and they meet on a monthly basis. For the forthcoming financial year, they have agreed a series of events, such as In Living Memory project, Funny Bunny Hunt, Guided Walks, Jubilee Celebration and Household Checks, to name but a few. This partnership has also become the voice for rural areas
- **Local Access Redcar and Cleveland and Hartlepool (LARCH)** – TVRA's CEO has for the last 2 years engaged with this initiative which is being led by Voluntary Organisations Network North East (VONNE). This is an initiative to encourage the growth of new and existing social entrepreneurs that could benefit from development grants or blended finance (loan and grant). The governance is now in place for the programme and TVRA's CEO is the Chair of the Redcar and Cleveland Area Panel. The programme will be formally launched in May 2022.

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**Partnership and Collaboration**

It would not be possible to deliver this level of activity without partnership and collaboration. TVRA has many partners, too large in number to list individually but throughout this reporting period have included:

Action with Communities in Rural England  
Community Transport Association  
Community Transport Member Groups  
County Durham and Cleveland Training Partnership  
Darlington Voluntary Community Sector Engagement Group  
East Cleveland Villages Big Local  
Greater North Rural Community Council Group  
Inclusion North  
National Association for Community and Voluntary Action  
Rose Regeneration  
Rural Services Network  
Skelton Heritage Partnership  
Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust  
Tees Valley Combined Authority  
Tees Valley Infrastructure Partnership  
Tees Valley Local Authorities  
Tees Valley Village Hall Network  
Voluntary Organisations Network North East

**Staff Resources**

TVRA's activities have been delivered by a staff team comprising the Chief Executive, Rural Development Manager and Business Support Manager.

**Other Activities**

Many village hall management committees in the Tees Valley have enjoyed the services of their respective Local Authority to independently examine their annual accounts as part of their legal ownership of the village hall. However, due to various austerity cuts, Local Authorities have ceased to do this and TVRA has been able to bridge the gap in providing this vital service which has brought in additional income to the Charity.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The financial position of the Charity is continually monitored by the Chief Executive and Treasurer with financial reports submitted to the Board of Trustees at each meeting. Income and expenditure of the Charity is reviewed against core and project budgets. The results of the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 9. The charity showed a deficit on unrestricted funds before transfers of £28,497 (2021: surplus £40,356) and an overall deficit of £53,152 (2021: surplus £49,808)

**Reserves Policy**

In the current economic climate, the Trustees aim to maintain free reserves at a level which equates to approximately three months core operating costs, (£32,000). This will be reviewed annually to ensure that this target figure is both current and enough to enable costs to be covered. Free non-designated reserves were £110,661 at 31 March 2022. Unrestricted reserves also include designated amounts for potential redundancy requirements, £21,222 and Pensions Trust deficit of £14,544. The Pensions Trust liability will not fall due unless TVRA withdraw from the pension scheme in its entirety. Restricted reserves at the year-end were £nil.



**Tees Valley Rural Action**  
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**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**Funds held on behalf of others**

TVRA continues to act as accountable body for the ECVBL and £52,646 was held at the end of March 2022. TVRA also acts as agent for East Cleveland Good Neighbours, Ormesby Good Neighbours and Tees Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust. At the year-end £3,671, £212 and £49,087 respectively were held for these three organisations. The money for these organisations is held within the charity's main bank account and records are kept of their income and expenditure, which are regularly reported to them.

**STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Tees Valley Rural Action (TVRA) is an independent registered Charity - No 1080282 - and was established on 11 April 2000. TVRA is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England on 12 April 1999. The guarantee of members is limited to £1 each in the event of the company being wound up. The company is governed by its Memorandum & Articles of Association.

The Board of Trustees meet, as a minimum, four times per annum to administer the Charity. The skill base of the Trustees is subject to regular review and training. New Trustees are recommended to the Board of Trustees and are approved at their Board meetings. Honorary Officers and Trustees are also elected following nomination at the Annual General Meeting. New Trustees are provided with an induction file which contains TVRA's administration details, policies, and procedures.

TVRA is a member of Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), the national umbrella body for the national network of Rural Community Councils. The Network currently consists of 38 members. ACRE operates at national, regional, and local levels in support of the Rural Community Councils and rural communities across the country providing a direct link to Central Government.

In reviewing the aims and objectives of the Charity and as part of the planning of future work, the Trustees have taken account of the guidance given by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Careful consideration is given to ensuring that activities consistently contribute to the Charity's objectives. TVRA's main areas of charitable activity are detailed in the Annual Report.

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

By Order of the Board  
Minna Ireland  
Treasurer

*Minna Ireland*

Date: 19.10.2022

**Tees Valley Rural Action**  
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**Independent Examiners Report**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 9 to 21.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The Charity's gross income exceeded £250000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any such unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr D J Robertson FCA  
Anderson Barrowcliff LLP  
3 Kingfisher Court  
Bowesfield Park  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 3EX

31.10.2022



**Tees Valley Rural Action**  
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**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account) At 31 March 2022**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds £</u>	<u>Restricted Funds £</u>	<u>2022 Total Funds £</u>	<u>2021 Total Funds £</u>
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Donations & legacies	2	38,252	37,192	75,444	209,281
Other income from Charitable Activities:					
Service delivery		7,346	-	7,346	647
Transport Service Delivery		7,903	-	7,903	584
<b>Income from other trading activities</b>					
Management fees		12,807	-	12,807	51,871
<b>Total income</b>		<u>66,308</u>	<u>37,192</u>	<u>103,500</u>	<u>262,383</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Charitable activities	3	94,805	64,442	159,247	212,400
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>94,805</u>	<u>64,442</u>	<u>159,247</u>	<u>212,400</u>
<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>		<u>(28,497)</u>	<u>(27,250)</u>	<u>(55,747)</u>	<u>49,983</u>
Transfers between funds					
Other recognised gains and losses		292	(292)	-	-
Re-measurement gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension plan	13	2,595	-	2,595	(175)
<b>Net movements in funds for the year</b>		<u>(25,610)</u>	<u>(27,542)</u>	<u>(53,152)</u>	<u>49,808</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<u>172,037</u>	<u>27,542</u>	<u>199,579</u>	<u>149,771</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	9	<u>146,427</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>146,427</u>	<u>199,579</u>

The notes on pages 11 to 21 form part of these accounts.

**Tees Valley Rural Action**  
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**Company No. 3750700**

**Balance Sheet**  
**At 31 March 2022**

		2022	2021
	Note	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>	6	16,101	21,468
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	7	61,509	15,954
Cash at bank and in hand		181,819	244,161
		243,328	260,115
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	111,735	76,874
<b>Net current assets</b>		131,593	183,241
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		147,694	204,709
Defined benefit pension liability	13	(1,267)	(5,130)
<b>Net assets</b>		146,427	199,579
<b>Funds:</b>			
Unrestricted funds – general	9	110,661	129,956
Unrestricted funds - designated	9	35,766	42,081
		146,427	172,037
Restricted funds	9	-	27,542
<b>Total funds</b>		146,427	199,579

For the year ending 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors Responsibilities:-

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

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 19.10.2022 and signed on their behalf by:

M Ireland

The notes on pages 11 to 21 form part of these accounts.

*M Ireland.*

The notes form part of these financial statements



**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**(a) General information and basis of preparation**

The charitable company is a registered charity in England. The address of the registered office is given in the Legal and Administrative Details on page 1. The nature of the charitable company's operations and principal activities are shown in the Trustee's Report. The charity is a private company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

The charitable company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charitable companies preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company, rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

**(b) Going Concern**

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity 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 accounts.

**(c) Fund Accounting**

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 cost of raising and administering the 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.

**(d) Incoming Resources**

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all the following criteria are met:-

- The charity has entitlement to the funds.
- Any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity.
- There is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- The amount can be measured reliably.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount.

Grants receivable are shown gross and are recognised in the SOFA to the extent that they relate to the period up to the year end. Where funding has been given for a period that spans the year end, the amount that relates to the following period is deferred and carried forward.

**(e) Resources Expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Irrecoverable VAT is included in expenditure against the relevant cost for which the expenditure was incurred. Expenditure is classified under the following headings:-

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**(e) Resources Expended (continued)**

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities. It includes both costs which can be directly allocated to activities and those costs of an indirect nature.
- Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll, and governance costs.
- Governance costs are those incurred in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**(f) Tangible Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets are normally written off in the year of purchase. Although this is not in accordance with general accounting principles, the Trustees consider that in view of the nature of the Charity, this is an appropriately prudent policy.

The Charity received 2 minibuses from the Department of Transport during the year 31 March 2017 and, in view of the materiality of this donation, these have been capitalised and depreciated at 25% per annum on a reducing balance basis.

**(g) Debtors**

Trade and other debtors with no stated interest rate and receivable within one year are recognised at the transaction price.

**(h) Cash & Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

**(i) Creditors**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

**(j) Pension Costs**

The company participates in a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 1,638 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 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. See note 13 to the accounts for further information.

**(k) Operating leases**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

**(l) Termination payments**

Termination payments are recognised at the amount paid in the period that the liability to make the payment arose.



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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Redcar & Cleveland Sustainability Fund	-	-	-	20,000
Local authority funding - Skelton				
Heritage Initiative	-	1,957	1,957	32,827
DEFRA (managed by ACRE)	-	35,235	35,235	35,235
RCVDA	8,000	-	8,000	8,000
Darlington VCSE Grants	1,500	-	1,500	3,000
Our Community Matters	-	-	-	21,363
Sundry Donations	926	-	926	60
Big Lottery - emergency Covid funding	-	-	-	38,934
Covid Champion funding	-	-	-	4,250
Middlesbrough Borough Council Covid Grant	-	-	-	10,000
Big Local - contribution to salaries	14,173	-	14,173	35,612
Greggs Foundation North East	13,653	-	13,653	-
	<u>38,252</u>	<u>37,192</u>	<u>75,444</u>	<u>209,281</u>

In 2021 £21,060 of the grants were unrestricted and £188,221 were restricted.

In 2021 the £647 service delivery and the £584 transport service delivery income were unrestricted. The management fee of £51,871 was unrestricted.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs (note 4)	110,979	149,282
Interest expenses (note 13)	30	137
Payroll services costs	216	216
Other staff costs – settlement agreement	-	8,250
Project Costs	3,000	-
HR Advisors	1,920	1,920
Training	5	-
Conferences and meetings	62	153
Travel expenses	1,166	492
Trustee expenses	-	86
AGM & Trustee meeting costs	952	-
Service delivery	1,702	1,642
Transport costs	5,768	3,087
Premises costs	5,814	7,739
Insurance	1,708	1,305
Office costs	4,821	4,874
Information technology	1,274	1,060
Marketing & publicity	1,689	652
Subscriptions	6,568	6,045
Independent examiners fee	3,750	3,480
Bookkeeping services	1,860	2,137
Consultancy	-	7,000
Bank charges	7	61
Sundry expenses	589	101
Depreciation	5,367	7,156
Grant repaid - Step Forward Tees Valley	-	5,525
	<u>159,247</u>	<u>212,400</u>

In 2021 £33,806 of the expenditure related to unrestricted expenditure and £178,594 related to restricted.



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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**4 STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs were as follows:-

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages & salaries	100,483	135,202
National Insurance costs	6,282	9,580
Pension costs	4,214	4,500
	<u>110,979</u>	<u>149,282</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 3 (2021 - 4). No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

No remuneration was paid to trustees in the year (2021 - nil).

No mileage expenses were to trustees in the year (2021 - £86 - 2 trustees).

**Remuneration of key management personnel**

The key management personnel comprise the trustees and Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of key management personnel were £45,759 (2021: £44,394).

**Settlement payment**

No settlement payments were paid in the year (2021: £8,250)

**5 TAXATION**

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of Schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the test set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

**6 FIXED ASSETS**

	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
<b>COST</b>		
At 1 April 2021 & 31 March 2022	<u>90,470</u>	<u>90,470</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>		
At 1 April 2021	69,002	69,002
Charge for the year	5,367	5,367
At 31 March 2022	<u>74,369</u>	<u>74,369</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>		
At 31 March 2022	<u>16,101</u>	<u>16,101</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>21,468</u>	<u>21,468</u>

**Tees Valley Rural Action**  
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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**7 DEBTORS**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	9,068	-
Other debtors	49,746	659
Prepayments and accrued income	2,695	15,295
	<u>61,509</u>	<u>15,954</u>

**8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals	6,119	7,283
Funds received as agent	105,616	69,591
	<u>111,735</u>	<u>76,874</u>

As described in the Trustees' Report, the funds received as agent are held on behalf of Big Local, East Cleveland Good Neighbours, Ormesby Good Neighbours, Tees Valley CCG and Tees Valley Rural Action receive their funds and administer on their behalf.

<b>Funds received as agent</b>	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance brought forward	69,591	130,132
Received in the year	151,562	74,059
Paid out in the year	(115,597)	(102,512)
Transfer of management fees	60	(32,088)
	<u>105,616</u>	<u>69,591</u>



**Tees Valley Rural Action**  
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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**9 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	Bal B/fwd 01.04.21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers & Pensions £	Bal c/fwd 31.03.22 £
<b>Unrestricted - general funds</b>	129,956	66,308	94,805	9,202	110,661
<b>Unrestricted - designated funds</b>					
Redundancy reserve	19,368	-	-	1,854	21,222
Pensions provision	22,713	-	-	(8,169)	14,544
	<u>172,037</u>	<u>66,308</u>	<u>94,805</u>	<u>2887</u>	<u>146,427</u>
<b>Restricted:</b>					
ACRE – contract	-	35,235	35,235	-	-
Darlington VCSE	3,292	-	3,000	(292)	-
Skelton Heritage	-	1,957	1,957	-	-
Sustainability fund	20,000	-	20,000	-	-
Covid champion funding	4,250	-	4,250	-	-
	<u>27,542</u>	<u>37,192</u>	<u>64,442</u>	<u>2595</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total restricted</b>					
	<u>27,542</u>	<u>37,192</u>	<u>64,442</u>	<u>2595</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>199,579</u>	<u>103,500</u>	<u>159,247</u>	<u>2595</u>	<u>146,427</u>

**Restricted funds**

The balance of these funds is specific to the continuation of activity related to the projects for which the funding has been given and the details of the projects are contained within the Trustees report.

**Designated funds**

TVRA's income is predominantly from funding contracts or service level agreements which are time limited. In the event that the level of income cannot be maintained throughout a financial year and there needs to be a reduction in staff and/or closure of the Charity, the Trustees consider it prudent to designate funds to cover the costs of redundancy payments. Redundancy costs at the year end are calculated and a transfer is made to the designated fund to ensure that it covers this amount.

There is a contingent liability of £15,811 with The Pensions Trust which would become payable if the Charity were to withdraw completely from the pension scheme. Of this deficit, £1,267 has been provided in the accounts and is being repaid over time (Note 13) and the balance (£14,544) is included as a designated fund.

**10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	16,101	-	16,101
Current assets	243,328	-	243,328
Total liabilities	(113,002)	-	(113,002)
	<u>146,427</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>146,427</u>

**Tees Valley Rural Action**  
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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**11 OPERATING LEASES**

At the year end the company had commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as detailed below: -

	2022	2021
	£	£
Within 2-5 years	4,315	5,695

Lease payments in the year amounted to £7,216

**12 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

No related party transactions occurred during the year.



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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**13 PENSION LIABILITY**

**SCHEME: TPT Retirement Solutions – The Growth Plan**

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 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 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 has 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)
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Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m. 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 2019 to 30 September 2025:	£11,243,000 per annum	(payable monthly and by 3% each on 1 April)
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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.

	31 March 2022 (£s)	31 March 2021 (£s)	31 March 2020 (£s)
Present value of provision	1,267	5,130	6,072

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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**14 PENSION LIABILITY - continued**

**RECONCILIATION OF OPENING AND CLOSING PROVISIONS**

	Period Ending 31.09.22 £	Period Ending 31.09.21 £
Provision at start of period	5,130	6,078
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	30	137
Deficit contribution paid	(1,298)	(1,260)
Re-measurements - impact of any change in assumptions	(29)	175
Re-measurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	(2,566)	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Provision at end of period	<u>1,267</u>	<u>5,130</u>

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE IMPACT**

	Period Ending 31.09.22 £	Period Ending 31.09.21 £
Interest expense	30	137
Re-measurements - impact of any change in assumptions	(29)	175
Re-measurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	(2,566)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>(2,565)</u>	<u>312</u>

**ASSUMPTIONS**

		% Per Annum	
	31.3.22	31.03.21	31.03.20
Rate of discount	2.35	0.66	2.53

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.



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**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

**14 PENSION LIABILITY - continued**

The following schedule details the deficit contributions agreed between the company and the scheme at each year end period:

**DEFICIT CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULE**

Year Ending	31.03.22	31.03.21	31.03.20
	£	£	£
Year 1	462	1,298	1,260
Year 2	462	1,337	1,298
Year 3	385	1,337	1,337
Year 4		1,182	1,337
Year 5			1,182
Year 6			
Year 7			
Year 8			
Year 9			
Year 10			
Year 11			
Year 12			
Year 13			
Year 14			
Year 15			
Year 16			
Year 17			
Year 18			
Year 19			
Year 20			

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.