

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

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

"Anderson Barrowcliff Limited Office Copy"

ANDERSON BARROWCLIFF LIMITED
Chartered Accountants

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: 03750700 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number: 1080282

Registered Office: Unit 16 Cadcam Centre
High Force Road
Riverside Park
Middlesbrough
TS2 1RH

Trustees:	Valerie Johnston	Chair
	Tanya Singh	Vice Chair
	Paul Frost	

Chief Executive & Company Secretary: Rita Lawson

Bankers: Yorkshire Bank
7 Linthorpe Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 1RF

Accountants: Anderson Barrowcliff Limited
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 2024

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 2024.

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 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 2023/2024 TVRA has continued to provide advice, guidance, and support to a broad range of rural and urban 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 which activities the Charity should undertake.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This reporting year, 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 TVRA has continued to deliver all its services. The Charity has retained a hybrid working pattern for its staff; 2 days in the office and 3 working from home. TVRA has limited staff and financial resources and so the opportunity to attend external meetings online has reduced the need to travel long distances, saving time away from the office and mileage costs. It has also afforded staff the opportunity to attend meetings/conferences in other parts of the region and country that have not been possible due to the additional burden of costly rail travel and accommodation. TVRA will, for the foreseeable future, continue with this hybrid working pattern, providing services can remain to be effectively delivered and subject to the business requirements of the Charity.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to restart the Volunteer Car Scheme, despite there being a demand, due to the two main barriers: finance and recruiting volunteers. Securing external funding to support both capital and revenue for Community Transport continues to be a challenge. The Team continues to search for funding opportunities. TVRA has also established a collaborative working partnership with Edge Innovation and Redcar and Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency, primarily to look at innovative solutions to improve access to affordable Community Transport.

The cost of living crisis has continued to impact on our rural communities. Using the Stockton Borough model of Food Partnerships, TVRA has worked in partnership with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Redcar and Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency to establish and develop a Food Power Together Partnership covering Redcar including East Cleveland.

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 and social media.

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Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The following section relates to a snapshot of the main areas of activity covered in the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024:

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.
- Continued to provide an independent examination service for village hall annual management accounts that generates a small additional income to the Charity.
- The focus of Village Halls work has been advice and guidance on recruiting volunteers for their management committees, reviewing, and updating policies and procedures.
- 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.
- East Cleveland Good Neighbours, (ECGN) has continued to operate as a project within Tees Valley Rural Action as well as providing advice and guidance around operations and fundraising. Staffing support, funded through East Cleveland Big Local, has continued. ECGN has continued to provide a volunteer-led 7 day per week helpline, operate the foodbank delivering food parcels of essential supplies on specific days of the week. Doorstep health checks continue and where appropriate signposting individuals to other appropriate services and offer a befriending service.
- TVRA has also been the main conduit for residents of East Cleveland to apply for fuel vouchers. Data for the full 12 months of 2023/2024 was not available from the referral agency but in the final quarter (January to March 2024) TVRA recorded 22 referrals.
- Funding through East Cleveland Big Local has continued for an experienced advice worker to provide guidance and support to users of Loftus Community Hub and the Food Bank to maximise their income through ensuring they are accessing benefits they are entitled to including energy, housing support advice, etc. The number of individuals engaged with this support has been 164 and funding has been agreed to continue this to the end of the main Big Local programme, September 2025.
- TVRA secured income of £13,790 for ECGN through general fundraising and funding applications to Community Trusts. The cost of living crisis has had an impact on surplus food donations and this income has ensured that the Foodbank has been able to maintain a supply of staple foods for the food parcels.
- Continued to support the mutual aid group, Ormesby Good Neighbours, (OGN) and to be their Accountable Body.
- TVRA supported Summerhouse Village Hall with their Awards for All funding application for the refurbishment of their kitchen. This was successful and they were awarded the maximum £20,000.
- In partnership with Redcar and Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency, (RCVDA) entered into discussions to provide a funding search service using the IDOX platform. The service, Redcar Fund Seekers, is scheduled to go live in May 2024.
- Working in Partnership with Redcar and Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency TVRA launched a new partnership working on the agenda of food poverty and sustainability for VCS groups across Redcar and Cleveland. An initial meeting was held in September 2023 led by South Tees Health to identify the interest and thirst for a project. TVRA has attended 2 pre-planning meetings/reviews and hosted, together with RCVDA, the second meeting. The outcome of the meeting was that there was a definite appetite for the project. A brand name, Food Power Network East Cleveland, Redcar and Eston was agreed. The aim to bring together likeminded people to discuss healthy food provision across Redcar and Cleveland. Participants of the partnership will be those whose role will be promoting healthy and sustainable food, working towards tackling food poverty, using healthy affordable food, building community food knowledge, catering and food procurement and, reducing food waste. Technically anyone who supports positive thinking around healthy food and sustainability. TVRA does not receive a management fee but is part of our partnership working with RCBC, RCVDA and other VCS organisations. Long term TVRA is working with RCVDA, RCBC to source external funding to support the employment of a Co-ordinator who can work with the Partnership and help its growth and sustainability. It is anticipated that TVRA will be the lead for any funding application and so a management fee will be built into the application.

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Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

ii) Stockton Rural Communities

- TVRA has functioned as the Accountable Body for funding of £5,739 awarded by County Durham Community Foundation Trust for the Slow Cooker courses. TVRA received a small management fee of £727 and the remainder of the funding was for the provision of slow cookers, utensils, tutoring, and room hire. The project delivered 19 slow cooker sessions benefitting 147 individuals across the rural communities of Stockton. A request has been made to the funder Point North, to look at further funding to keep these sessions going and introducing Air Fryer courses.
- An opportunity via NHS Charities, Volunteering for Health became available, and a group of VCS anchor organisations in Darlington made the decision to submit a bid. The working group for this was Citizens Advice Darlington, Darlington Association on Disability, Healthwatch Darlington, Theatre Hullabaloo, Tandem (formerly Morrison's Trust), Darlington Mind and TVRA. A bid supported by the Integrated Care Board and Darlington Borough Council was submitted in January 2024 and a decision was expected by the end of March 2024.
- Member of the steering group for the Tees Valley Combined Authority's Community Investment Fund. This is scheduled to be launched toward the latter part of the 2024/2025 financial year.

iii) Community Transport

TVRA has continued to deliver the Minibus Group Hire scheme providing affordable transport to its members. Beneficiaries have included members of groups such as Health and Wellbeing, Walking, Church, Youth, Refugee/Asylum, Luncheon, School Academies and Village Halls. The table below shows a comparison of this reporting period and the two previous years:

Minibus

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Members	26	25
Passengers (Adult)	1,569	777
Passengers (U18s)	2,295	1,404
Miles	14,495	9,645
Volunteer Hours	1,232 @ £10.42 per hour £12,837	1,335 @ £9.50 per hour £12,683
Volunteer Drivers	30	30

TVRA has continued to receive enquiries for the Volunteer Car scheme which clearly demonstrates demand for transport to and from medical appointments. This is especially in light of the criteria for NHS Patient Transport and availability being quite stringent. The scheme is resource intensive and due to lack of access to funding opportunities it has not been possible to restart the scheme.

TVRA, in partnership with Teesside LGV Training submitted an expression of interest to become a registered Community Transport Association, (CTA) Training Centre. This would be a coup for TVRA and the Tees Valley as the nearest centre for the North East is Edinburgh. The submission to operate as a 1 year pilot was approved, and partners are in the process of formalising the partnership and agreement with CTA. It is anticipated that a formal launch will be in the Autumn of 2024.

TVRA is leading on a series of sessions, 'In Conversation with Community Transport Association'. The purpose being to raise awareness of Community Transport Association, community transport per se and what this means to rural communities. Exploring innovative solutions to address transport access issues with a view to influencing policy decisions within the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

TVRA worked in collaboration with Edge Innovation and Redcar and Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency to submit an expression of interest to Mobility. This was looking to go back to basics on community transport for both able bodied and disabled users. Data gathered would be used to inform policy and planning and also to look at an innovative way to address the barriers within Redcar and Cleveland. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful, but the intelligence gathered for this expression of interest will be used for other funding opportunities.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

iv) 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 January 2021). 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 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 annual 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 objective 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, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, Social Prescribing Academy, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Teesside Community Foundation, and North East and Cumbria Integrated Care System.

v) Other

➤ **East Cleveland Community Development (The National Lottery Community Fund)**

The programme commenced on 1st June 2023 with the anticipation that the Project Officer would be in post by the end of July 2023. Unfortunately, due to a poor response with the first advert, TVRA made the decision to go back out to advertise the position. This generated more quality applications, and we were able to appoint a Community Development Officer, East Cleveland, (CDO) who commenced in October 2023; some 2 months behind schedule.

The CDO has undertaken a lot of introductory work to her role and familiarising herself with the area of East Cleveland, i.e., reaching out to community groups, social media presence, asset mapping, collating a database of community and farm contacts, attending meetings or regular community events, such as coffee mornings. The CDO organised the project's first event that took place on Thursday 21st March 2024, at Loftus Town Hall and was called 'Rural Together 24'. The event took place during the annual ACRE-led Village Halls' week with the theme of 'Going Green.' East Cleveland Good Neighbours (Big Local) also supported and took part in the event providing £1,500 of seed funding for Village Halls/Community Groups. There were 3 groups that pitched their project ideas to the audience on how they wanted to address environmental sustainability in their village and for what they would use the funding. to the audience to secure their votes. The audience then voted on their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices and the funding was shared as follows: 1st place - £750; 2nd place - £500 and 3rd place - £250.

At the event, the CDO conducted a consultation exercise focusing on questions around how TVRA could provide the best support for community groups and what are the main challenges or concerns for their future sustainability. The evaluation and analysis of the data collected showed the following:

- Groups wished to engage and recruit new community members and volunteers of all ages to participate in Village Hall/ community projects, and
- To make it easier for community groups to identify and apply for funding to support their projects.

The synthesis of this was the development of a Volunteer recruitment Pack with customisable templates of posters, social media posts, local press releases and imagery to help bolster volunteer recruitment. The pack was sent directly to community groups giving them the freedom to share, quickly and easily, where they felt would be most beneficial to their group.

Furthermore, with the development of the new fund seekers portal well under way, the issue of identifying what funding is available and how to apply will be removed. The user-friendly platform will enable groups to access funding opportunities easily, tailored to their specific needs.

During the Rural Together 24 event, attendees were made aware of the additional funding that had been secured from Ballinger Trust to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera., (TIC) The TIC will be available for loan to community groups so they can carry out their own energy surveys to identify 'quick wins' that will help to improve the building's energy efficiency. It is anticipated this initiative will be launched in the autumn of 2024.

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Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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

TVRA has continued to function 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. TVRA has received additional funding from ECVBL to support the Partnership and East Cleveland Good Neighbours Foodbank of the Head of Business Development for 3 days per week on a full cost recovery basis. This decision by the Partnership has been essential and pivotal to ensuring that the Partnership was able to fulfil its commitments to review the plan ending in February 2024 and securing the funding for their final plan to begin May 2024 through to the end of the programme in September 2025. This role will also oversee the development and delivery of the projects contained within the Partnership's final plan.

➤ **Local Access Redcar and Cleveland and Hartlepool (LARCH)**

This 5-year initiative is being led by Voluntary Organisations Network North East (VONNE) was formally launched in May 2022 following the successful appointment of a Programme Manager. This is an initiative to encourage the growth of new and existing social entrepreneurs that could benefit from development grants or blended finance (social loan and grant). TVRA's CEO has continued as Chair of the Redcar and Cleveland Area Panel, (RCAP) and representative on the joint Management Board. The RCAP has overseen the advancement of 29 projects through the programme receiving initial development grant support with a view to moving to social investment loans.

➤ **Rural Shared Prosperity Fund – Redcar and Cleveland**

This is a fund that is an addendum to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and based on levels of deprivation DEFRA identified East Cleveland as the recipient of funds; the only area within the Tees Valley to benefit. TVRA's CEO is part of the working group for this initiative, and it is pleasing to report that the Tees Valley Combined Authority, the lead for this fund, used TVRA's Rural Evidence base as part of the evidence as to where the funds should be targeted.

At the closing date for the 1st funding call, over 70 applications had been received. TVRA's CEO was part of the appraisal panel, and a moderation panel took place on 16th January 2024. Applications to the theme 'Supporting Rural Communities' were low and the over-commitment from 'Supporting Rural Businesses' could have taken the full allocation. However, RCBC and TVRA argued that this could not happen and so a second round was opened but just for the Supporting Rural Communities theme with an anticipated closing date of April/May 2024.

Up to and including 31st March 2024, 41 rural businesses had received offers of funding for approximately £490,856, creating an estimated 71 jobs and safeguarding 141 jobs.

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
Darlington Voluntary Community Sector Engagement Group
East Cleveland Good Neighbours – Big Local Partnership
Edge Innovation
Inclusion North
National Association for Community and Voluntary Action
Redcar and Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency

National Council for Voluntary Organisations
Rural Services Network
Stockton Rural Communities (Chair held by TVRA)
Tees Valley Combined Authority including the Tees Valley 5 Local Authorities
Tees Valley Infrastructure Partnership
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, Head of Business Development Manager and the Lottery funded, Community Development Officer. TVRA has also engaged the former Rural Development Manager on a casual contract basis to support ad hoc pieces of work for the Charity.

Tees Valley Rural Action
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Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial position of the Charity is continually monitored by the Chief Executive and the 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 Board of TVRA's Trustees report that the Charity continues to be in a sound financial position for a further year. The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 9. The charity showed a deficit on unrestricted funds of £24,480 (2023: £30,261) and an overall surplus of £2,152 (2023: deficit of £19,041).

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 £63,342 at 31 March 2024. Unrestricted reserves also include designated amounts for potential redundancy requirements, £12,538 and Pensions Trust deficit of £6,749. 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 £37,852.

Funds held on behalf of others

TVRA continues to act as accountable body for the ECVBL and £53,144 was held at the end of March 2024. TVRA also acts as agent for East Cleveland Good Neighbours, Ormesby Good Neighbours and Tees Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust. At the year-end £1,275, £405 and £24 respectively were held for these 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 11th April 2000. TVRA is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England on 12th 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 and 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 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

Chair
V Johnston



Date: 23 October 2024

Tees Valley Rural Action
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Examiners Report
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 20.

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 £250,000 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 be reached.

Mrs J Bennett FCA
Anderson Barrowcliff Limited
3 Kingfisher Court
Bowesfield Park
Stockton on Tees
TS18 3EX

Date: 28 November 2024

Tees Valley Rural Action
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Statement of Financial Activities
(Including Income & Expenditure Account) at 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
INCOME					
Charitable activities					
Donations & legacies	2	35,897	102,787	138,684	90,921
Other income from Charitable Activities:					
Service delivery		2,252	-	2,252	2,905
Transport Service Delivery		14,343	-	14,343	16,028
Income from other trading activities					
Management fees		3,577	-	3,577	6,758
Investment income					
Interest received		7,147	-	7,147	2,015
Total income		<u>63,216</u>	<u>102,787</u>	<u>166,003</u>	<u>118,627</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	3	(87,696)	(76,155)	(163,851)	137,668
Total expenditure		<u>(87,696)</u>	<u>(76,155)</u>	<u>(163,851)</u>	<u>137,668</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure) / Net movements in funds for the year		<u>(24,480)</u>	<u>26,632</u>	<u>2,152</u>	<u>(19,041)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>116,166</u>	<u>11,220</u>	<u>127,386</u>	<u>146,427</u>
Total funds carried forward	9	<u><u>91,686</u></u>	<u><u>37,852</u></u>	<u><u>129,538</u></u>	<u><u>127,386</u></u>

The notes on pages 10 to 20 form part of these accounts.

Tees Valley Rural Action
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Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	£	£
Fixed assets	6	9,057	12,075
Current assets			
Debtors	7	4,686	5,029
Cash at bank and in hand		177,441	212,601
		182,127	217,630
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	61,269	101,511
Net current assets		120,858	116,119
Total assets less current liabilities		129,915	128,194
Defined benefit pension liability	13	(377)	(808)
Net assets		129,538	127,386
Funds:			
Unrestricted funds - general	9	72,399	84,232
Unrestricted funds - designated	9	19,287	30,792
		91,686	116,166
Restricted funds	9	37,852	11,220
Total funds		129,538	127,386

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

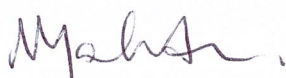
Directors Responsibilities:-

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 23 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



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

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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

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

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.

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.

(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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

(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:-

- 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.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Tees Valley Rural Action
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	2023 Total £
Julia and Hans Rausling Trust	-	-	-	11,220
National Lottery Funding	-	49,061	49,061	-
DEFRA (managed by ACRE)	-	34,235	34,235	34,235
RCVDA	7,461	-	7,461	-
County Durham Community Grant	-	5,012	5,012	-
Volunteering Challenge	-	-	-	5,000
Sundry Donations	-	-	-	363
Woodsmith Foundation	-	-	-	8,000
Big Local - contribution to salaries	28,436	-	28,436	18,304
Greggs Foundation North East	-	14,479	14,479	13,799
	<u>35,897</u>	<u>102,787</u>	<u>138,684</u>	<u>90,921</u>

In 2023 £32,466 of the grants were unrestricted and £58,455 were restricted.

In 2023 the £2,905 service delivery and the £16,028 transport service delivery income were unrestricted. The management fee of £6,758 was unrestricted.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs (note 4)	105,802	97,280
Interest expenses (note 13)	31	-
Payroll services costs	216	216
HR Advisors	-	237
Training	188	941
Conferences and meetings	327	-
Travel expenses	672	1,395
AGM & Trustee meeting costs	-	73
Service delivery	9,840	1,589
Transport costs	7,500	6,899
Premises costs	11,850	6,079
Insurance	2,737	1,414
Office costs	5,756	3,055
Information technology	1,813	1,352
Marketing & publicity	786	648
Subscriptions	6,767	6,562
Independent examiners fee	4,120	3,930
Bookkeeping services	1,800	1,800
Bank charges	7	7
Sundry expenses	504	165
Depreciation	3,018	4,026
Bad debts	117	-
	<u>163,851</u>	<u>137,668</u>

In 2023 £47,235 of the expenditure related to restricted expenditure and £90,433 related to unrestricted.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

4 STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:-

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages & salaries	98,785	89,614
National Insurance costs	4,177	4,077
Pension costs	2,840	3,589
	<u>105,802</u>	<u>97,280</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2023 - 3). No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to trustees in the year (2023 - nil).

No mileage expenses were to trustees in the year (2023 - nil).

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 £39,837 (2023: £43,830).

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 £
COST		
At 1 April 2023 & 31 March 2024	<u>90,470</u>	<u>90,470</u>
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 April 2023	78,395	78,395
Charge for the year	3,018	3,018
At 31 March 2024	<u>81,413</u>	<u>81,413</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 March 2024	<u>9,057</u>	<u>9,057</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>12,075</u>	<u>12,075</u>

Tees Valley Rural Action
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

7 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,109	1,642
Other debtors	659	659
Prepayments and accrued income	2,918	2,728
	<hr/> 4,686 <hr/>	<hr/> 5,029 <hr/>

8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	6,422	5,817
Funds received as agent	54,847	95,694
	<hr/> 61,269 <hr/>	<hr/> 101,511 <hr/>

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.

Funds received as agent

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance brought forward	95,694	105,616
Received in the year	58,570	85,556
Paid out in the year	(99,417)	(95,478)
Transfer of management fees	-	-
	<hr/> 54,847 <hr/>	<hr/> 95,694 <hr/>

Tees Valley Rural Action
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

9 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Bal B/fwd 01.04.23	Income	Expenditure	Transfers & Pensions	Bal c/fwd 31.03.24
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted - general funds	85,374	63,216	(87,696)	11,505	72,399
Unrestricted - designated funds					
Redundancy reserve	15,789	-	-	(3,251)	12,538
Pensions provision	15,003	-	-	(8,254)	6,749
	<u>116,166</u>	<u>63,216</u>	<u>(87,696)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,686</u>
Restricted:					
ACRE – contract	-	34,235	(34,235)	-	-
County Durham Community Grant	-	5,012	(3,799)	-	1,213
Julia and Hans Rausling Trust	11,220	-	(11,220)	-	-
Volunteering Challenge	-	-	-	-	-
Greggs Foundation North East	-	14,479	(14,479)	-	-
National Lottery Funding	-	49,061	(12,422)	-	36,639
	<u>11,220</u>	<u>102,787</u>	<u>(76,155)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,852</u>
Total restricted	<u>11,220</u>	<u>102,787</u>	<u>(76,155)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,852</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>127,386</u>	<u>166,003</u>	<u>(163,851)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,538</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, £377 has been provided in the accounts and is being repaid over time (Note 13) and the balance (£6,749) is included as a designated fund.

10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	9,057	-	9,057
Current assets	144,275	37,852	182,127
Total liabilities	(61,646)	-	(61,646)
	<u>91,686</u>	<u>37,852</u>	<u>129,538</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

11 OPERATING LEASES

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Less than 1 year	2,921	2,885
Within 2-5 years	4,568	-
	<hr/> 7,489 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,885 <hr/>

Lease payments in the year amounted to £6,622

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 2024

13 PENSION LIABILITY

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	(£s)	(£s)	(£s)
Present value of provision	377	808	1,267

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 2023 to 31 January 2026: £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)

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 2020 to 30 September 2026: £11,243,000 per annum (payable monthly and increasing by 3% each on 1st April)

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.

PRESENT VALUES OF PROVISION

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	(£s)	(£s)	(£s)
Present value of provision	337	808	1,267

Tees Valley Rural Action
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

13 PENSION LIABILITY - continued

RECONCILIATION OF OPENING AND CLOSING PROVISIONS

	Period Ending 31.03.24 £	Period Ending 31.03.23 £
Provision at start of period	808	1,267
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	31	25
Deficit contribution paid	(462)	(462)
Re-measurements - impact of any change in assumptions	-	(22)
Re-measurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	-	-
Provision at end of period	377	808

INCOME & EXPENDITURE IMPACT

	Period Ending 31.03.24 £	Period Ending 31.03.23 £
Interest expense	31	25
Re-measurements	-	(22)
- impact of any change in assumptions	-	-
- amendments to the contribution schedule	-	-
	31	3

ASSUMPTIONS

	% Per Annum
	31.03.24 31.03.23 31.03.22
Rate of discount	5.31 5.52 2.35

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 2024

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	31.03.24	31.03.23	31.03.22
	£	£	£
Year 1	385	462	462
Year 2		385	462
Year 3			385
Year 4			
Year 5			
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.