

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1151203

## Details

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**Other names** WARRINGTON CULTURAL TRUST, CULTURE WARRINGTON

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [07974406](#)

**Registered** 2013-03-12

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Culture Warrington  
The Pyramid  
Palmyra Square South  
Warrington  
WA1 1BL

**Phone** 01925361739

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## Activities

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**Objects:** 1. TO ADVANCE EDUCATION OF, AND PROMOTE THE ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND SCIENCE, IN PARTICULAR THROUGH PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING A MUSEUM, ART GALLERY AND CONCERT HALL;2. TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN HEALTHY RECREATION IN PARTICULAR BY THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR THE PLAYING OF AMATEUR SPORT;3.TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE SUCH FACILITIES BEING PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE SAVE THAT SPECIAL FACILITIES MAY BE PROVIDED TO PERSONS WHO BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, POVERTY OR SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES MAY HAVE NEED OF SPECIAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES.FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC (AND IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE PEOPLE OF WARRINGTON.?

**Activities:** To advance education of and promote arts, culture, heritage and science through maintaining a museum, art gallery and concert hall.to promote community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the playing of amateur sport

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WARRINGTON
- Warrington

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£4,451,234	£3,959,229	£2,544,385	70
2024-03-31	£3,650,142	£3,130,768	£1,888,380	58
2023-03-31	£2,923,216	£3,317,963	£3,237,006	55
2022-03-31	£3,049,571	£2,824,450	£1,358,011	56
2021-03-31	£1,994,080	£1,638,838	£151,890	60

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Duckworth		2025-04-24
Bronte Appleby		2025-09-16
Christian Persoglio		2023-11-06
Claire Lloyd-Fitzgerald		2024-05-21
Claire Shaw		2025-09-22
DAVID SIMONS		2018-10-18
Dr Sophie Norton		2025-09-16
Lindsey Margaret Harrison		2018-06-16
Paul Parry		2025-04-24

**CULTURE WARRINGTON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1151203

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number 1151203 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 07974406

**CULTURE WARRINGTON**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	M Banner L M Harrison D C Simons J L Wilkie C Persoglio C Lloyd-Fitzgerald P Parry A Duckworth B Appleby Dr S Norton C Shaw	(Appointed 21 May 2024) (Appointed 24 April 2025) (Appointed 24 April 2025) (Appointed 16 September 2025) (Appointed 16 September 2025) (Appointed 22 September 2025)
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**Charity number (England and Wales)** 1151203

**Company number** 07974406

**Registered office**  
Pyramid Arts Centre  
Palmyra Square South  
Warrington  
Cheshire  
WA1 1BL

**Auditor**  
Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited  
Suites C,D,E, & F  
14th Floor The Plaza  
100 Old Hall Street  
Liverpool  
L3 9QJ

**Bankers**  
National Westminster Bank plc  
23 Sankey Street  
Warrington  
Cheshire  
WA1 1XG

**Solicitors**  
Mills & Reeve LLP  
8th Floor  
1 New York Street  
Manchester  
M1 4AD

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CONTENTS

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	<b>Page</b>
Chairman's statement	1
Trustees' report	2 - 8
Independent auditor's report	9 - 12
Statement of financial activities	13
Balance sheet	14
Statement of cash flows	15
Notes to the financial statements	16 - 33

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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We have so much to celebrate, and I am immensely proud of Culture Warrington. As the leading cultural organisation in Warrington, we continue to demonstrate consistency of an enriched, diversity of programmes and outreach for our communities.

Our Leadership Team, with strategic direction from Trustees continued to develop and support the arts in Warrington through an increasingly diverse and inclusive programme.

A significant highlight was the relaunch of Warrington Arts Festival. Thanks to substantial funding from Arts Council England (ACE) alongside financial support from Warrington Borough Council and Warrington BID, we delivered an accessible, wide-ranging and high caliber summer event, which was the culmination of ongoing work in the community.

We lead an ambitious programme created with, by and for the people of Warrington, which resulted in fantastic feedback from our primary funder. ACE told us that *'the quality of the commissions and programming were very high with a non-typical audience of ACE funded events with families who may have found it difficult to attend paying events'* shining a spotlight on our ability and experience in bringing communities together.

Within our core offer, the successful appointment to the new role of Museum Development Manager will help drive a new vision and our strategic priorities for Warrington Museum and Art Gallery (WMAG).

With increased focus on sustainability, we've adopted a policy and action plan with many of our team qualified in 'Carbon Literacy' and our inspiring Sky Garden project has been recognised with a number of national awards.

149,630 participants took part in our expansive events programme across our venues and through our education, outreach and engagement initiatives.

Looking ahead, the Towns Deal funded modernisation of our Pyramid Arts Centre is currently underway and we look forward to welcoming visitors back next year.

On a personal note, I recently took the difficult decision to retire as Chair after leading Culture Warrington since its inception in 2012. Fresh leadership in a new era for the charity feels right, and our new Chair Claire Lloyd Fitzgerald is an exciting prospect.

The possibilities for Culture Warrington are wide-open, with a hardworking, talented and collaborative team and the support of a skilled and knowledgeable Board delivering for the people of Warrington.

I would like to thank our Board for its strategic leadership and our creative, imaginative Leadership Team; they are the foundations on which we flourish and continue to develop our arts and heritage. Their professional passion and thoughtful ideas continue to develop our inclusive, ambitious programmes.

To colleagues, volunteers, Warrington Borough Council, partners, funders and all our supporters across the years, my thanks, it has been a pleasure working with you.



M Banner  
**Former Chair**

Date: 25 November 2025

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

#### **Public benefit**

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

#### **Objectives and activities**

The objectives of the charity, as set out in the Articles of Association are:

- To advance education of and promote the arts, culture, heritage and science, in particular through providing and maintaining a museum, art gallery and concert hall;
- To promote community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the playing of amateur sport;
- The provision of or assistance in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare such facilities being provided to the public at large save that special facilities may be provided to persons who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social or economic circumstances may have need of special facilities and services.

Culture Warrington was formed in May 2012 as the lead organisation to deliver Arts, Heritage and Events in Warrington, and encompasses three venues, Pyramid, Parr Hall and Warrington Museum & Art Gallery. As well as operating these venues Culture Warrington programmes a wide range of events and festivals.

Culture Warrington operates the Museum, Pyramid and Parr Hall on 25 year leases from Warrington Borough Council at a peppercorn rent as part of the management agreement to deliver services. It is impractical to assign a separate rental value to the buildings.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Warrington Music Festival

Working collaboratively with partners, we delivered Warrington Music Festival, a free event showcasing the talents of some of the best grassroots and emerging music artists from the region. The aspirational project saw many young people go on a journey from showcasing their material at Pyramid's Basement Bar to being centre stage performing to hundreds of people in the town centre on a large capacity professional platform.

In addition, attendees had the opportunity to gain insight into potential career paths in the music industry via 'Stage Craft', free educational workshops made possible thanks to a partnership with Priestley College.

#### Parr Hall Programmed Events

Our iconic listed concert hall continued to host a diverse range of performers and household names. We even had a Hollywood star grace our stage when Russell Crowe and his 'Indoor House Party' toured – the Parr Hall gig was one of a very limited number of UK shows.

Our distinctive programme across the year covered comedy, dance, talks, family shows and music with something for everyone. Highlights included fast rising Earlestown rockers The K's, top comedians like Rhod Gilbert, Jimmy Carr, Al Murray and Katherine Ryan, music stars such as Peter Hook and Scouting for Girls, journalist and explorer Simon Reeve and BBC broadcasting legends, duo Mark and Lard, who were back together again professionally for the first time in two decades.

There was also a lot of excitement when we exclusively hosted two intimate album launch shows for the high-profile band The Courteeners in advance of their sell-out arena tour.

As ever, our annual Panto was well attended by family audiences. *Cinderella* was one of our most successful seasons, which capitalised on TV star Anne Hegerty's inclusion in the cast.

Beyond touring shows, Parr Hall is at the heart of community hires and our wider programming such as Warrington Arts Festival, which has become more significant during Pyramid's temporary closure.

#### Warrington Museum & Art Gallery (WMAG)

In addition to housing our galleries and collection of some 200,000 artefacts from across the world, we use the venue as a unique performance space to facilitate cross-team projects such as Warrington Pride, Lunar New Year and an Early Years Takeover as part of Warrington Arts Festival, with an underused space revamped as a permanent dedicated zone for young children and their families.

Our range of free school holiday and weekend craft activities remain ever popular with families.

#### Education

Developing our formal education offer to schools, we created Early Years / KS1 visits to the Museum with partners including a subsidised musical or artistic element which has been well received.

We created a new funded scheme of work based on a local historical figure which has been made available for schools to download for free, and we continued our CPD (continuing professional development) programme for teachers in association with Heritage England.

#### Sustainability / Green Agenda

Along with our sustainability agenda and volunteer programme, our nationally recognised and award-winning rooftop green space, Sky Garden, provides an alternative and inspiring venue for a range of educational, mental health and community engagement programmes and outdoor arts.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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As an invited member of Warrington Climate Emergency Commission, we developed a strand of work on green youth engagement, and we are regularly approached by the sector to share our expertise and best practice.

#### Exhibitions

Highlights included *'World Building'* celebrating the work of local creative Curtis Jobling, best known as the designer of Bob the Builder and creator of *Raa Raa the Noisy Lion*.

Steve Goldman's *The Worst Record Covers in the World* was well received and featured more than 600 unintentionally hilarious record covers in a celebration of creative risk.

The success of the show prompted a tweet from visitor, BBC 6 Music's Mark Radcliffe, which went viral. Subsequently, we were pleased to welcome first-time visitors to our galleries because of this.

*Roots and Reflections: A Journey Through Black British History* celebrated Black British history and culture through the creativity of 600 primary schoolchildren across nine schools. The young artists worked with artist Tina Ramos Ekongo in a project funded by Arts Council England.

Other exhibitions featured local artists and pieces from our collection which tied into national events such as the D-Day anniversary and Warrington Pride.

#### Collections, Heritage and Archives

Alongside our Search Room service and collections 'Object Enquiry' drop in's, we continued our successful outreach and engagement programme through a series of events, talks and workshops. Our expertise continues to be recognised and valued as we host research projects and provide curatorial advice to local organisations.

Alongside the team, we're grateful to our dedicated volunteers who contributed their time in supporting the Archives offer.

We were delighted to be supported by Arts Council England through its 'Unlocking Collections' campaign this year. We received £16,795 which helped us launch *'A Cabinet of (Whose?) Curiosities'* project which seeks to collaborate with the community to address colonial structures associated with Warrington Museum's past and collections. It has seen us work with youth groups and members from our Sikh, Hong Kong, Chinese and African communities, including sessions with non-English speakers.

#### Place Partnership Fund (PPF) Team and Warrington Arts Festival

Our first year of the two-year Arts Council England-funded PPF project of work has enabled us to engage and collaborate with a wide range of partners and groups including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), Youth Justice system, the LGBTQIA+ community and global majorities incorporating input into our annual Warrington Arts Festival and beyond, creating a legacy and feeding into the relaunch of Pyramid.

The project has three main streams: Communities, Children and Young People and Artist Development.

We created 12 Young Producer volunteer roles to help programme and deliver the festival. The scheme was so successful that they have been retained alongside a new cohort for year two. One of their huge successes was 'Squiggle', collaborating with established Warrington artist and fashion designer Tony Green to deliver a large community canvas in the local shopping centre which attracted 1,400 attendees across a weekend within the festival programme.

We launched 'HeARTful Minds' a funded programme of artist delivered sessions across 14 schools with more than 560 participations by children identified at risk with mental health. 92% of the children taking part stated that their confidence had improved by taking part in the programme.

As part of Warrington Arts Festival (WAF), we held our largest Open Exhibition hosted at WMAG, which attracted almost 900 entries, of which 96 artworks by 70 artists were selected.

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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We launched an Artist Development programme too, with free monthly opportunities for artists to learn, meet and platform work. It has also provided ongoing project development and fundraising support for Culture Warrington's Associate Artists.

The festival itself is the culmination of engagement throughout the year, and we worked to actively remove barriers that might stop people coming to events such as cost, accessibility and location.

More than 12,500 people attended live events throughout the week, plus more who experienced the artworks and exhibitions and 70 local artists took part in a paid capacity.

The festival culminated with our biggest piece so far, a free large-scale aerial performance. The production also saw us commission a local artist who worked with care leavers to create a poem which provided an impactful backing track to the event about Warrington's sense of identity.

#### **Staff**

Number of staff employed by Culture Warrington – 57 employees (at end March 2025)

Number of volunteer hours supported by Culture Warrington – 1,900

\* Figure excluding commissions

#### **Financial review**

In the year ended 31 March 2025 Culture Warrington recorded a surplus of £492,005 (2024: surplus of £519,374) prior to actuarial gains from the pension scheme, from incoming resources of £4,451,234 (2024: £3,650,142).

After taking into account the actuarial gains there was an overall increase in funds from £1,888,380 to £2,544,385 as at 31 March 2025.

The cash position remains at a healthy level with cash levels being at £3,230,715 as at 31 March 2025 (2024: £2,913,208).

The charity has recorded a surplus in 2024/25 but this surplus includes £56,359 accounted for as a restricted fund from Place Partnership Funding received from Arts Council England; this surplus will reverse over the next financial year as this funding is spent on delivery. Alongside this £283,683 was received from Shared Prosperity fund to purchase equipment. This surplus will decrease over the coming years due to the depreciation of the assets.

The charity continues to maintain strong reserves and cash.

#### **Reserves policy**

The purpose of the reserves policy for Culture Warrington is to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations of the charity.

The charity's unrestricted reserves are intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in costs, significant unbudgeted costs, or unanticipated loss in income or funding. The unrestricted reserves may also be used for investment in infrastructure. The unrestricted reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds but may be used to implement actions to deal with the impact of such a loss.

The target minimum unrestricted reserve (excluding reserves relating to the pension scheme) is equal to three month's average operating costs – currently this would equate to £850,000 – and the trustees will seek to maintain reserves at this level. The Trustees will balance the growth in unrestricted reserves to the target level with investment into projects which extend the reach of the cultural offer in Warrington by splitting any annual surpluses equally between these two objectives.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### **Structure, governance and management**

Culture Warrington is a charitable company with Articles of Association and governed by a Board of Trustees. Culture Warrington is constituted as a limited company by guarantee without share capital.

The trustees are directly elected by the Trust. Culture Warrington agreed with Warrington Borough Council that the Council is entitled to nominate two observers.

The Board of Trustees has met formally five times during the year.

From 1 March 2024, the management support services contract provided by LiveWire (Warrington) CIC ceased and Culture Warrington became a standalone organisation with a new Senior Management Team comprising an Executive Director and Cultural Director who attend all Board meetings.

Each new trustee attends an induction day held by the Senior Management Team. Trustees are presented with a pack of information about Culture Warrington and their roles and responsibilities as a trustee; additional training is provided if required.

During the year the Trust continued to largely suspend the operation of subcommittees of the Board, with all business being carried out by the Board, although the Finance Audit and Risk Subcommittee met once during the year for a detailed review of the strategic risks affecting the charity.

#### **Going concern**

The charity has been able to deliver a full programme of events enabling it to continue to build its reserves. Grants received from Arts Council England into restricted funds will be spent in future periods and so these reserves will reduce over that time. However, an increase in the Management Fee from Warrington Borough Council for 2024/25 has been obtained to support core delivery. Alongside this, energy prices have decreased bringing them back to a more sustainable level.

The Directors have considered the effect on the financial position of the charity and in view of the current financial position, and the financial support available, the Directors consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

A F Appleton-Mitchell	(Resigned 25 February 2025)
M T Corfield	(Resigned 20 March 2025)
M Banner	
L M Harrison	
D C Simons	
R K Welsh	(Resigned 17 September 2024)
J L Wilkie	
C Persoglio	
C Lloyd-Fitzgerald	(Appointed 21 May 2024)
P Parry	(Appointed 24 April 2025)
A Duckworth	(Appointed 24 April 2025)
B Appleby	(Appointed 16 September 2025)
Dr S Norton	(Appointed 16 September 2025)
C Shaw	(Appointed 22 September 2025)

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

As part of the arrangements with Warrington Borough Council, the Council nominated two observers that attend Board meetings. The Council observers during the year were Councillor Claire Lloyd-Fitzgerald and Councillor Russ Bowden.

#### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Culture Warrington for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

# **CULTURE WARRINGTON**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025***

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### **Auditor**

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Disclosure of information to auditor**

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

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

### **C Lloyd-Fitzgerald**

Trustee

Dated: 25 November 2025

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### Opinion

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

In our opinion, the financial statements:

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

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

#### Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

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

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities**

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the charity's accounting policy for revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Data Protection Regulations.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Audit response to risks identified**

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

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

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **Use of our report**

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

**Philip Griffiths (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited**

25 November 2025

**Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

Suites C,D,E, & F  
14th Floor The Plaza  
100 Old Hall Street  
Liverpool  
L3 9QJ

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
<b>Income from:</b>							
Charitable activities	3	3,921,769	477,600	4,399,369	3,252,062	360,490	3,612,552
Investments	4	51,865	-	51,865	37,590	-	37,590
<b>Total income</b>		<u>3,973,634</u>	<u>477,600</u>	<u>4,451,234</u>	<u>3,289,652</u>	<u>360,490</u>	<u>3,650,142</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	5	3,489,183	470,046	3,959,229	3,082,566	48,202	3,130,768
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>3,489,183</u>	<u>470,046</u>	<u>3,959,229</u>	<u>3,082,566</u>	<u>48,202</u>	<u>3,130,768</u>
<b>Net income</b>		484,451	7,554	492,005	207,086	312,288	519,374
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	(4,164)	4,164	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses:</b>							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes		164,000	-	164,000	55,000	-	55,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	7	<u>648,451</u>	<u>7,554</u>	<u>656,005</u>	<u>257,922</u>	<u>316,452</u>	<u>574,374</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>1,489,716</u>	<u>398,664</u>	<u>1,888,380</u>	<u>1,231,794</u>	<u>82,212</u>	<u>1,314,006</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2025</b>		<u><u>2,138,167</u></u>	<u><u>406,218</u></u>	<u><u>2,544,385</u></u>	<u><u>1,489,716</u></u>	<u><u>398,664</u></u>	<u><u>1,888,380</u></u>

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

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		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		439,671		190,565
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	12	21,884		20,341	
Debtors	13	118,911		144,221	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,230,715		2,913,208	
		<u>3,371,510</u>		<u>3,077,770</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	<u>(1,266,796)</u>		<u>(1,379,955)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>2,104,714</u>		<u>1,697,815</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>2,544,385</u>		<u>1,888,380</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>2,544,385</u>		<u>1,888,380</u>
Defined benefit pension liability	15		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	16		406,218		398,664
Unrestricted funds	17		<u>2,138,167</u>		<u>1,489,716</u>
			<u>2,544,385</u>		<u>1,888,380</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 25 November 2025

C Lloyd-Fitzgerald  
Trustee

Company registration number 07974406 (England and Wales)

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	21		566,248		806,344
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(301,506)		(106,430)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		900		-	
Investment income received		51,865		37,590	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(248,741)		(68,840)
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			317,507		737,504
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			2,913,208		2,175,704
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			3,230,715		2,913,208

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

Culture Warrington is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Pyramid Arts Centre, Palmyra Square South, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1BL.

##### 1.1 Accounting convention

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### 1.2 Going concern

In view of the current financial position, the funding support available, and the continued support of our commissioners, Warrington Borough Council, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

##### 1.3 Charitable funds

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

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

##### 1.4 Income

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

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

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

##### 1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been included in support costs and allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Plant and equipment	10% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	10% on cost
Computer equipment	20% on cost

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

##### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

##### 1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

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

##### 1.9 Cash and 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. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

##### 1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### ***Impairment of financial assets***

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

##### ***Derecognition of financial assets***

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

##### ***Basic financial liabilities***

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### ***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.11 Employee benefits

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

#### 1.12 Retirement benefits

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 15, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 March 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

FRS 102 section 28.22 allows an entity to recognise a surplus within the Local Government Pension Scheme "only to the extent it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan". The actuarial report as at 31 March 2025 indicates a defined benefit asset position, which has been capped at nil value. This is on the basis that it is uncertain that a surplus following any triennial review would result in reduced contributions for the employer, and is unlikely to result in a repayment.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 3 Income from charitable activities

	Cultural engagement	Museum	Venue and events management	Total	Cultural engagement	Museum	Venue and events management	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Museum and Art Gallery	1,409	6,239	902	8,550	1,160	5,653	-	6,813
Pyramid and Parr Hall	4,452	-	1,787,126	1,791,578	393	-	1,458,052	1,458,445
Facility hire	451	-	144,918	145,369	534	-	186,644	187,178
Cultural engagement	456,392	7,259	350,844	814,495	1,702	1,928	3,827	7,457
Commissions	10,000	15,116	1,180	26,296	38,876	3,551	356,955	399,382
Education	17,958	-	-	17,958	13,840	-	-	13,840
Management fee	1,606,508	(11,385)	-	1,595,123	1,528,052	11,385	-	1,539,437
	<u>2,097,170</u>	<u>17,229</u>	<u>2,284,970</u>	<u>4,399,369</u>	<u>1,584,557</u>	<u>22,517</u>	<u>2,005,478</u>	<u>3,612,552</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>								
Unrestricted funds	1,641,454	17,229	2,263,086	3,921,769	1,584,557	18,982	1,648,523	3,252,062
Restricted funds	455,716	-	21,884	477,600	-	3,535	356,955	360,490
	<u>2,097,170</u>	<u>17,229</u>	<u>2,284,970</u>	<u>4,399,369</u>	<u>1,584,557</u>	<u>22,517</u>	<u>2,005,478</u>	<u>3,612,552</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Other income	51,865	37,590

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 5 Charitable activities

	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2025	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2024
	2025	2025	2025		2024	2024	2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	294,040	155,661	643,178	1,092,879	180,084	144,972	382,756	707,812
Depreciation and impairment	3,467	431	46,561	50,459	3,552	1,559	27,040	32,151
Premises expenditure	1,307	-	343,087	344,394	1,451	743	495,142	497,336
Artists and event fees	271,022	2,954	810,025	1,084,001	49,760	5,825	701,252	756,837
Spectrix charges	-	-	28,799	28,799	-	-	26,569	26,569
Telephone and computer	-	-	10,956	10,956	-	-	12,617	12,617
Printing and stationery	967	-	909	1,876	921	-	345	1,266
Advertising	-	-	8,656	8,656	-	-	-	-
Sundries	51,953	9,653	6,464	68,070	6,577	86,664	4,122	97,363
Purchases and stocks	2,243	26,312	150,345	178,900	1,261	7,192	113,141	121,594
Legal costs	410	12,774	115,632	128,816	1,248	-	39,429	40,677
Motor, travel and entertainment	777	28	7,785	8,590	460	-	1,508	1,968
Equipment hire	669	-	36,609	37,278	299	-	15,407	15,706
EPOS charges	-	-	25,915	25,915	-	-	26,209	26,209
Carried forward	626,855	207,813	2,234,921	3,069,589	245,613	246,955	1,845,537	2,338,105

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 5 Charitable activities

(Continued)

	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2025	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2024
	2025	2025	2025		2024	2024	2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	626,855	207,813	2,234,921	3,069,589	245,613	246,955	1,845,537	2,338,105
Share of support costs (see note 6)	110,281	94,431	678,796	883,508	169,206	147,996	450,877	768,079
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	991	891	4,250	6,132	5,534	4,736	14,314	24,584
	<u>738,127</u>	<u>303,135</u>	<u>2,917,967</u>	<u>3,959,229</u>	<u>420,353</u>	<u>399,687</u>	<u>2,310,728</u>	<u>3,130,768</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>								
Unrestricted funds	325,237	276,318	2,887,628	3,489,183	390,459	399,687	2,292,420	3,082,566
Restricted funds	412,890	26,817	30,339	470,046	29,894	-	18,308	48,202
	<u>738,127</u>	<u>303,135</u>	<u>2,917,967</u>	<u>3,959,229</u>	<u>420,353</u>	<u>399,687</u>	<u>2,310,728</u>	<u>3,130,768</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6	Support costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	2024	Basis of allocation
		£	£	£	£	
	Staff costs	413,709	-	413,709	373,722	Time spent
	Depreciation	12,956	-	12,956	5,173	
	Advertising and literature	50,895	-	50,895	46,791	Charitable activity levels
	Professional fees	10,550	-	10,550	150,564	Operational staff costs
	Telephone and computer	131,988	-	131,988	68,410	Device numbers
	Other central support costs	79,380	-	79,380	67,791	Operational staff costs
	Irrecoverable VAT	180,030	-	180,030	143,628	Charitable activity levels
	Net interest cost on defined benefit pension scheme	4,000	-	4,000	(88,000)	
	Audit fees	-	6,133	6,133	9,800	Governance
	Legal and professional	-	-	-	14,784	Governance
		<u>883,508</u>	<u>6,133</u>	<u>889,641</u>	<u>792,663</u>	
	Analysed between					
	Charitable activities	<u>883,508</u>	<u>6,132</u>	<u>889,640</u>	<u>792,663</u>	
7	<b>Net movement in funds</b>				<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
					£	£
	The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):					
	Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements				6,133	9,800
	Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets				51,500	37,324
					<u>57,633</u>	<u>47,124</u>

### 8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 9 Employees

##### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Management and administration	7	2
Operational team	63	56
	<u>70</u>	<u>58</u>

##### Employment costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	1,242,452	871,874
Social security costs	104,136	66,660
Other pension costs	160,000	143,000
	<u>1,506,588</u>	<u>1,081,534</u>

The members of the senior management team are employed by Livewire (Warrington) CIC.

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 10 Taxation

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2024	188,452	100,928	50,694	340,074
Additions	295,006	-	6,500	301,506
Disposals	-	(900)	-	(900)
At 31 March 2025	483,458	100,028	57,194	640,680
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 1 April 2024	90,681	32,308	26,520	149,509
Depreciation charged in the year	34,261	7,069	10,170	51,500
At 31 March 2025	124,942	39,377	36,690	201,009
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 March 2025	358,516	60,651	20,504	439,671
At 31 March 2024	97,771	68,620	24,174	190,565

#### 12 Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Raw materials and consumables	21,884	20,341

#### 13 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	68,326	86,815
Prepayments and accrued income	50,585	57,406
	118,911	144,221

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	61,203	61,690
Trade creditors	236,898	227,362
Other creditors	56,439	41,448
Accruals and deferred income	912,256	1,049,455
	<u>1,266,796</u>	<u>1,379,955</u>

#### 15 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	160,000	143,000
	<u>160,000</u>	<u>143,000</u>

##### Defined benefit schemes

The charity's employees belong to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is managed by Cheshire Pension Fund. This is a multi-employer defined-benefit scheme.

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds.

The principal actuarial assumptions are as follows;

##### Key assumptions

	2025	2024
	%	%
Discount rate	5.85	4.85
Expected rate of increase of pensions in payment	2.70	2.75
Expected rate of salary increases	3.4	3.45
	<u>3.4</u>	<u>3.45</u>

##### Mortality assumptions

The assumed life expectations on retirement at age 65 are:

	2025	2024
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.7	20.8
- Females	24.6	24.6
	<u>24.6</u>	<u>24.6</u>
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	20.7	20.8
- Females	25.1	25.1
	<u>25.1</u>	<u>25.1</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

<b>15 Retirement benefit schemes</b>	<b>(Continued)</b>	
<i>Amounts recognised in the profit and loss account</i>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<i>Costs/(income):</i>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current service cost	160,000	143,000
Net interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	4,000	(88,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total costs	164,000	55,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
 <i>Amounts recognised in other comprehensive income</i>	 <b>2025</b>	 <b>2024</b>
<i>Costs/(income):</i>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Actual return on scheme assets	(141,000)	(374,000)
Less: calculated interest element	291,000	269,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Return on scheme assets excluding interest income	150,000	(105,000)
Actuarial changes related to obligations	(991,000)	(210,000)
Effect of changes in the amount of surplus that is not recoverable	677,000	260,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total costs/(income)	(164,000)	(55,000)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
 The amounts included in the balance sheet arising from the charity's obligations in respect of defined benefit plans are as follows:		
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<i>Liabilities/(assets):</i>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Present value of defined benefit obligations	3,278,000	3,841,000
Fair value of plan assets	(6,138,000)	(6,024,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus in scheme	(2,860,000)	(2,183,000)
Restriction on scheme assets	2,860,000	2,183,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liability recognised	-	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

<b>15</b>	<b>Retirement benefit schemes</b>	<b>(Continued)</b>
		<b>2025</b>
		<b>£</b>
	<i>Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations</i>	
	Liabilities at 1 April 2024	3,841,000
	Current service cost	160,000
	Benefits paid	(96,000)
	Contributions from scheme members	69,000
	Actuarial gains and losses	(991,000)
	Interest cost	295,000
		<hr/>
	At 31 March 2025	3,278,000
		<hr/> <hr/>

The defined benefit obligations arise from plans which are wholly or partly funded.

		<b>2025</b>
		<b>£</b>
	<i>Movements in the fair value of plan assets</i>	
	Fair value of assets at 1 April 2024	6,024,000
	Interest income	291,000
	Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest)	(150,000)
	Benefits paid	(96,000)
	Contributions by scheme members	69,000
		<hr/>
	At 31 March 2025	6,138,000
		<hr/> <hr/>

The actual return on plan assets was £141,000 (2024 - £374,000).

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<i>Fair value of plan assets</i>	
	Equity instruments	3,012,000
	Debt instruments	2,169,000
	Property	723,000
	Cash	120,000
		<hr/>
	6,138,000	6,024,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 16 Restricted funds

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

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Numismatic	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Sustainable Improvement Fund					
Grant	2,908	9,500	(5,391)	-	7,017
Geoblitz	1,111	-	-	-	1,111
Ready to borrow	4,215	-	(1,128)	-	3,087
Contemporary Arts	-	-	(11,523)	-	(11,523)
Weston Loan Programme	1,283	-	-	-	1,283
Colonel Edelsten Bequest	52,657	-	(23,350)	-	29,307
Meeting Point	6,500	-	(6,120)	-	380
Peter Rogerson Bequest	6,810	-	-	-	6,810
Local Growth Fund	-	-	(3,467)	-	(3,467)
Grass Roots Music	23,219	-	(2,124)	-	21,095
Place Partnership Fund	298,461	446,216	(389,855)	-	354,822
Pyramid Remastered Towns Deal	-	21,884	(27,088)	-	(5,204)
	<u>398,664</u>	<u>477,600</u>	<u>(470,046)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>406,218</u>

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Numismatic	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Sustainable Improvement Fund					
Grant	-	3,500	(592)	-	2,908
Geoblitz	1,111	-	-	-	1,111
Ready to borrow	5,343	-	(1,128)	-	4,215
Contemporary Arts	-	35	(732)	697	-
Weston Loan Programme	1,283	-	-	-	1,283
Colonel Edelsten Bequest	57,575	-	(4,918)	-	52,657
Meeting Point	6,500	-	-	-	6,500
Peter Rogerson Bequest	8,900	-	(2,090)	-	6,810
Local Growth Fund	-	-	(3,467)	3,467	-
Grass Roots Music	-	26,955	(3,736)	-	23,219
Place Partnership Fund	-	330,000	(31,539)	-	298,461
	<u>82,212</u>	<u>360,490</u>	<u>(48,202)</u>	<u>4,164</u>	<u>398,664</u>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

**Numismatic** - £1,500 was received from the Northwest Museum Development Fund to improve care of and accessibility to our Numismatic collection.

**Sustainable Improvement Fund** - The Sustainable Improvement Fund was applied for and granted in 2022 by Museum Development North. The programme strand applied under was 'Environmental Sustainability'. The money received was spent designing and building the first phase of the Sky Garden space on top of Golden Square shopping centre. This included design drawings, delivery of soil, gravel, sleepers and plants, and construction of the bedding spaces and seating area by Groundwork Warrington. The Sky Garden is a rooftop community garden space we use to increase biodiversity in the town centre, we also use it as a learning space for schools and a community space for events and a volunteer garden team. The remainder of the funding was used to trial and deliver some school workshops based around plants and habitats and staff time managing the project delivery.

This initial fund paved the way for further funding to expand the space and deliver a fuller community events programme over the summer months.

**Geoblitz** - This grant via Leeds Museums is to develop and/or promote engagement with the Geology collection at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery.

**Ready to Borrow** - This grant from ACE is to enable Culture Warrington to buy equipment that provides a suitable and stable environment so that we are able to borrow paintings from National Museums.

**Contemporary Arts** - This is funding from ACE and Warrington Borough Council to fund the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival.

**Weston Loan Programme** - This grant is to cover costs relating to borrowing three paintings from National Museums Liverpool, including conservation work, transport, School of Art activity programme of artist workshops and seminars, exhibition guides, additional Front of House staff. This programme ran from May to December 2018.

**Colonel Edelsten Bequest** - This grant from the Colonel Edelsten Bequest is to fund an upgrade of equipment to improve the experience for users of Culture Warrington.

**Meeting Point** - This funding from Arts and Heritage is to enable Culture Warrington to work with and commission a local artist to produce a piece of contemporary art, and to explore showing contemporary art within a heritage context. The commissioned piece formed part of the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival for 2019.

**Peter Rogerson Bequest** - This is legacy funding from the estate of local history librarian, Peter Rogerson, to be invested in developing the Charity's Archive Service.

**Local Growth Fund** - This funding is provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership to make the existing Warrington Museum & Library building and the network of community-based libraries into hubs for the delivery of digital programmes and workshops for coding clubs, schools, local businesses and digital creatives in the community.

**Grass Roots Music** - This funding is provided by Arts Council England to support rehearsal and recording studios, promoters, festivals, and venues for live and electronic music performance such as grassroots music venues and club sector organisations to apply for support for projects.

**Place Partnership Fund** - This funding is provided by Arts Council England to support for specific types of projects that aim to make a step change in the cultural and creative opportunity in places through the Place Partnership Strand within Project Grants. These will be projects that seek to transform an aspect of cultural or creative provision in line with Let's Create and the strategic cultural development aspirations of the place the activity benefits.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

**Pyramid Remastered Towns Deal** – Revenue funding from the Town Deal award of £5m towards the redevelopment of Pyramid which is specifically set aside to contribute towards the decant and return to Pyramid which includes removal costs, storage costs, temporary venue costs, setting up of safety and security systems, etc. This could also include marketing and communication materials, consultation fees, etc. to help communicate that the building is ready for re-opening to the public.

#### 17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Car park fund	15,452	-	-	-	-	15,452
General funds	1,734,264	3,973,634	(3,161,183)	-	-	2,546,715
	<u>1,749,716</u>	<u>3,973,634</u>	<u>(3,161,183)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,562,167</u>
Pension fund	(260,000)	-	-	-	164,000	(96,000)
	<u>1,489,716</u>	<u>3,973,634</u>	<u>(3,161,183)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,000</u>	<u>2,466,167</u>
	<u><u>1,489,716</u></u>	<u><u>3,973,634</u></u>	<u><u>(3,161,183)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>164,000</u></u>	<u><u>2,466,167</u></u>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 April 2023</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Gains and losses</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Car park fund	15,452	-	-	-	-	15,452
General funds	1,531,342	3,289,652	(3,082,566)	(4,164)	-	1,734,264
	<u>1,546,794</u>	<u>3,289,652</u>	<u>(3,082,566)</u>	<u>(4,164)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,749,716</u>
Pension fund	(315,000)	-	55,000	-	-	(260,000)
	<u>1,231,794</u>	<u>3,289,652</u>	<u>(3,027,566)</u>	<u>(4,164)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,489,716</u>
	<u><u>1,231,794</u></u>	<u><u>3,289,652</u></u>	<u><u>(3,027,566)</u></u>	<u><u>(4,164)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,489,716</u></u>

The car park fund represents contributions to car parking by staff which the trustees have agreed to set aside to cover any future repair costs.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	408,931	30,740	439,671	128,592	61,973	190,565
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,729,236	375,478	2,104,714	1,361,124	336,691	1,697,815
	<u>2,138,167</u>	<u>406,218</u>	<u>2,544,385</u>	<u>1,489,716</u>	<u>398,664</u>	<u>1,888,380</u>

#### 19 Related party transactions

During the current and prior year Culture Warrington utilised the key management personnel and resources of Livewire (Warrington) CIC a company registered in England and Wales, company number 07972958. A recharge is incurred from Livewire (Warrington) CIC for the use of these resources.

#### 20 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

#### 21 Cash generated from operations

	2025 £	2024 £
Surplus for the year	492,005	519,374
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(51,865)	(37,590)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	51,500	37,324
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	164,000	55,000
<b>Movements in working capital:</b>		
(Increase) in stocks	(1,543)	(2,627)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	25,310	(27,100)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(113,159)	261,963
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<u>566,248</u>	<u>806,344</u>

**CULTURE WARRINGTON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1151203

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number 1151203

Company registration number 07974406 (England and Wales)

**CULTURE WARRINGTON**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	A F Appleton-Mitchell M T Corfield M Banner L M Harrison D C Simons J L Wilkie C Persoglio C Lloyd-Fitzgerald	(Appointed 6 November 2023) (Appointed 21 May 2024)
<b>Charity number</b>	1151203	
<b>Company number</b>	07974406	
<b>Registered office</b>	Pyramid Arts Centre Palmyra Square South Warrington Cheshire WA1 1BL	
<b>Auditor</b>	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool L2 5RH	
<b>Bankers</b>	National Westminster Bank plc 23 Sankey Street Warrington Cheshire WA1 1XG	
<b>Solicitors</b>	Mills & Reeve LLP 8th Floor 1 New York Street Manchester M1 4AD	

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CONTENTS

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	<b>Page</b>
Chairman's statement	1
Trustees' report	2 - 9
Independent auditor's report	10 - 13
Statement of financial activities	14
Balance sheet	15
Statement of cash flows	16
Notes to the financial statements	17 - 31

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CHAIR'S STATEMENT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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2023/24 was a pivotal year for the charity as we worked towards the separation from our sister company LiveWire and became a standalone organisation in our own right from March 2024 bringing fantastic opportunities for the leading cultural organisation in Warrington, and the charity continues to thrive.

Additionally, we welcomed a new Executive Director in November 2023, following the departure of our Managing Director earlier in the year. These significant changes will inform the forthcoming five-year business plan and our future strategic direction and priorities against our charitable objectives.

Following a successful funding application award to us from Arts Council England Place Partnership Fund, work towards a future revitalised annual arts festival commenced, with an element of the substantial grant supporting a team working with the community, underrepresented groups, partners and young voices to inform the programme and delivery beyond the festival period.

The receipt of this significant sum is reflected in the surplus on our accounts. In addition, an increase in management fee to cover central support costs, ongoing vacancies and reduced energy costs are combined with a year of successful programming and similarly reflected in the reported surplus.

Of priority in the year was working closely with consultants Heritage Rescue on an options appraisal for Warrington Museum & Art Gallery which identified strategic priorities that will support Culture Warrington in refining the museum's purpose and ensure progression towards capital development.

Despite continued financial uncertainties, and the similar pressures faced by our customers, we continue to see substantial increases in engagement, with 174,299 participants taking part in our diverse events and programmes across our venues and through our education and outreach programmes. Looking ahead, the upcoming redevelopment of Pyramid Arts Centre is a major focus. The £4.9 million project from the government's 'Towns Fund' will transform Pyramid into a modern, flexible cultural hub, enhancing its capacity and facilities.

It is my belief that the last year has been significant in our development as a standalone company. Cultural activities play an important part in the life of the people of Warrington.

To our Board of Trustees, colleagues, volunteers, Warrington Borough Council, partners, funders and all our supporters, my thanks. Together we will continue to offer a diverse programme of cultural activities.

Enjoy this Annual Report, together we are well placed to continue our exciting journey.



**M Banner**

Chair

Dated: 10 December 2024

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

#### Public benefit

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

#### Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity, as set out in the Articles of Association are:

- To advance education of and promote the arts, culture, heritage and science, in particular through providing and maintaining a museum, art gallery and concert hall;
- To promote community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the playing of amateur sport;
- The provision of or assistance in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare such facilities being provided to the public at large save that special facilities may be provided to persons who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social or economic circumstances may have need of special facilities and services.

Culture Warrington was formed in May 2012 as the lead organisation to deliver Arts, Heritage and Events in Warrington, and encompasses three venues, Pyramid, Parr Hall and Warrington Museum & Art Gallery. As well as operating these venues Culture Warrington programmes a wide range of events and festivals.

Culture Warrington operates the Museum, Pyramid and Parr Hall on 25 year leases from Warrington Borough Council at a peppercorn rent as part of the management agreement to deliver services. It is impractical to assign a separate rental value to the buildings.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Highlights of our work

- Pyramid and Parr Hall Programming:

We hosted a diverse range of events throughout the year, including performances from renowned and acclaimed artists including Ben Fogle, Frankie Boyle, Gabrielle, Jake Bugg, Jimmy Carr, Paul Smith, Sarah Millican, Seann Walsh, Shed 7, Starsailor and Tom Allen.

We continued our long-running partnership with The Comedy Store with a series of sell-out Comedy Store events at Pyramid.

Our much-loved annual pantomime kick-started 2024 with the age-old tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', which achieved strong ticket sales and received excellent feedback from attendees.

We diversified our programming offer with a hugely successful sell-out show, ADHD The Musical, which explored the highs and lows of living with the most common neuro-development disorder worldwide, to critical acclaim. Autism and Sea was another well-received family-friendly production, and we were honoured that the production team chose to develop and rehearse the performance in our venue due to both our accessibility and welcoming environment.

- Grass Roots Music

The Grass Roots Music programme continued to flourish, with local performances taking place in Pyramid's basement, culminating in Warrington Music Festival. Emerging and established local bands such as The Ambersons, Fältsänger, Parlours and The Odeens to name but a few took part to acclaim.

The programme supports emerging talent and provides valuable performance opportunities culminating in Warrington Music Festival, which offers a significant platform for local artists. Museum and Art Gallery.

The Museum and Art Gallery has been bustling with activity, creativity, and community engagement. From lively 'Crafternoons' to impactful exhibitions, we've seen a year full of vibrant programmes and meaningful interactions.

- Exhibitions

The Andie Airfix exhibition was a standout, showcasing the celebrated Warrington born graphic designer known for his iconic album covers for worldwide names such as Metallica and Paul McCartney and offered a unique glimpse into his innovative approach to visual branding and art.

Pete Regan also made a significant impact with his thought-provoking installation of AI-generated artwork. Regan's work explored the intersection of technology and creativity, challenging perceptions and sparking conversations about the role of artificial intelligence in the artistic process.

Winner of the 2022 Warrington Open, Lasma Poisa provided an intimate portrayal of motherhood through her striking photography series, "I Became a Mother."

These exhibitions not only celebrated exceptional artistic achievements but also encouraged visitors to engage with contemporary issues and ideas.

- Crafternoons & Holiday Activities

Our family friendly craft activity sessions have been a great success, with a total of 1,708 attendees throughout the year, showcasing our ability to engage families during school breaks and weekends.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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Our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity is reflected in our postcode data. 22% of attendees came from the 0-10% most deprived areas nationally, with a further 14% from the 10-20% most deprived areas, illustrating our reach into underserved communities.

- Collections, Heritage, and Archives:

Online enquiries have surged, reflecting a shift towards remote research which we continue to adapt to. We respond to thousands of enquiries on our collections and add hundreds of documents to our archive every year, ensuring Warrington's history is preserved for future generations, and we are working with Cheshire Record Office to ensure that the people of Warrington have better access than ever to their records.

Archives has seen a significant increase in volunteer engagement, and they have been instrumental in indexing and cataloguing historical records and digitising our herbarium. In August of 2023, the Archives Team held its first Annual Volunteer Tea, volunteers past and present got together for Afternoon Tea with our Chair, Maureen Banner.

Under the theme 'Creativity Unwrapped', our Collections Team hosted 31 events over the nationwide Heritage Open Days fortnight with over 4,700 participants.

- Education Programme

Our formal educational programme has continued to grow, and we welcomed new home education groups to our school workshop offer, promoting use of public transport for visits, reflecting our approach to sustainability and cost saving.

Our CPD offer was robust, with a second cohort of Historic Schools CPD in partnership with Historic England.

We delivered a pilot course for adults with severe to moderate mental health issues focusing on nature and wellbeing that we hope to continue.

Archives has continued to work closely with Education to create children's workshops and teacher training sessions, with a number of bespoke legacy projects such as Old Billy, celebrating the world's oldest horse, and a tailor-made scheme of work 'William Smithies', helping to ensure that Local History reaches a younger audience.

#### Outreach & Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival

The charity's outreach and community engagement programmes took the breadth of our offer across the town, and we continue to develop a network of grassroots organisations to inform community-driven events.

Our partnership with Wired Aerial Theatre on the mental health production Me v Me was a key achievement, with associated workshops for 236 participants that led to a reported 97% increase in wellbeing. The production itself drew 350 attendees who noted its innovative approach.

We also played a significant role in the Warrington Weekend Wonderland event, providing an immersive installation and our annual Christmas projection on the Town Hall, collaborating with local artists and students.

Our new membership of Without Walls Creative Development Network has expanded our outdoor arts programme, while our Place Shaping through Creativity project with CVAN (Contemporary Visual Arts Network) underscores our commitment to creative place-making.

Our outreach delivery has included connecting with previously underrepresented groups. Consultation with the Hong Kong community and LGBTQ+ organisations have fostered deeper cultural understanding and led to collaborative and ongoing programming.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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We engaged with 300 young people through consultations with schools and youth organisations and launched our Young Producers programme, with 12 individuals empowered to contribute to our event production. Our early years and SEND programs, developed with local partners, include sensory dance activities and self-guided museum programmes, ensuring accessibility for all young people.

Our 13th annual arts festival saw an impressive open call for commissions, with 56 proposals submitted. We awarded £32,950 to 10 new festival commissions, supporting local creatives and expanding the festival's scope. Our ongoing commitment to community engagement and cultural development continues to enrich the arts scene in Warrington.

#### Sustainability

The Sky Garden project continues to grow and attract funding for further development and has trebled in size! Monthly garden sessions with our expanding volunteer group have kept our green initiatives growing, while work began on a sustainability policy and action plan for the charity. The location supports the education programme and offers an inspiring outdoor venue space.

#### Our Achievements

Number of people who participated in Culture Warrington activities – 152,021\*

Number of people who chose to visit Parr Hall – 65,578

Number of people who participated in activities at Pyramid Arts Centre – 12,703

Number of people who visiting Pyramid Arts Centre and Parr Hall for some other reason – 8,424

Number of people who visited Warrington Museum & Art Gallery – 39,411

Number of Archive Search Room visits / information requests – 9,936

Number of people engaged in Culture Warrington's outreach and engagement activities – 8,430

Parr Hall hosted 76 events throughout 2023/24

Pyramid was hired 416 times for programmed events and classes

Number of formal education sessions delivered - 183

Number of people engaged in formal education sessions – 4,034

#### Staff

Number of staff employed by Culture Warrington – 57 employees (at end March 2024)

Number of volunteer hours supported by Culture Warrington – 1,900

\* Figure excluding commissions

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Looking forward

The grant funded redevelopment of Pyramid Arts Centre will upgrade the venue with a revamped Studio Theatre along with a new café and bar, and increased capacity in the Exhibition Hall, enabling the centre to host a range of performances and events simultaneously. The remodelling of existing facilities will focus on improving visitor experiences and increasing exhibition spaces.

We are set to enhance our cultural programming by expanding the performance calendar at both Pyramid and Parr Hall to include a broader spectrum of local, national, and international artists.

Strengthening community and educational outreach is a key priority. We plan to build on the success of our annual arts festival and extend its scope, duration and reach thanks to ACE grant funding which will enable us to dedicate resource to planning and delivery with the community at its heart.

Finally, the commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility is central to our future plans as we work to reduce our carbon footprint, integrate energy-efficient practices, and make better use of recycled materials. This commitment will extend beyond our buildings and into our programming and partnership work.

#### Financial review

In the year ended 31 March 2024 Culture Warrington recorded a surplus of £519,374 (2023: deficit of £394,747) prior to actuarial gains from the pension scheme, from incoming resources of £3,738,142 (2023: £2,923,216).

After taking into account the actuarial gains there was an overall increase in funds from £3,237,006 to £4,071,380 as at 31 March 2024.

The cash position remains at a healthy level with cash levels being at £2,913,208 as at 31 March 2024 (2023 £2,175,704).

Although a deficit was recorded in 2022/23 the strong financial position of the charity allowed it to withstand the financial shocks in that year from increased energy costs and other inflationary pressures. The charity has recorded a surplus in 2023/24 but this surplus includes £298,461 accounted for as a restricted fund from Place Partnership Funding received from Arts Council England; the surplus on this fund will reverse over the next two financial years as this funding is spent on delivery. Similarly, the net surplus is to some extent inflated due to the ongoing staff vacancies in the 2023-24 financial year, with a number of positions remaining unfilled as at 31 March 2024. However, the charity did benefit from a reduction in energy costs of circa £120,000, and an increase in ticket sales at Parr Hall and the Pyramid Centre of circa £126,000 resulting from successful events programming, both of which contributed to the improved overall financial performance.

The charity continues to maintain strong reserves and cash.

Culture Warrington previously purchased shared services, including management and support services, from LiveWire (Warrington) CIC but in March 2024 that arrangement ceased when the services LiveWire (Warrington) CIC delivered were insourced by Warrington Borough Council. Culture Warrington has built up an independent central services function and secured additional funding to offset the increased future costs.

#### Reserves policy

The purpose of the reserves policy for Culture Warrington is to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations of the charity. The charity's unrestricted reserves are intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in costs, significant unbudgeted costs, or unanticipated loss in income or funding. The unrestricted reserves may also be used for investment in infrastructure. The unrestricted reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds but may be used to implement actions to deal with the impact of such a loss.

The target minimum unrestricted reserve (excluding reserves relating to the pension scheme) is equal to one month's average operating costs – currently this would equate to £300,000 – and the trustees will seek to maintain reserves at this level. The Trustees will balance the growth in unrestricted reserves to the target level with investment into projects which extend the reach of the cultural offer in Warrington by splitting any annual surpluses equally between these two objectives.

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Structure, governance and management

Culture Warrington is a charitable company with Articles of Association and governed by a Board of Trustees. Culture Warrington is constituted as a limited company by guarantee without share capital.

The trustees are directly elected by the Trust. Culture Warrington agreed with Warrington Borough Council that the Council is entitled to nominate two observers.

The Board of Trustees has met formally six times during the year.

To end February 2024, the Senior Management Team, comprised the Managing Director, Finance Director, Health and Wellbeing Director, and People Performance and Resources Director, who attended all Board meetings. The Senior Management Team were employed by LiveWire (Warrington) CIC, and a management support services contract was in place detailing the areas of provision Culture Warrington received from LiveWire (Warrington) CIC. One trustee was a member of Warrington Cultural Trust and LiveWire (Warrington) CIC Boards.

From 1 March 2024, the management support services contract provided by LiveWire (Warrington) CIC ceased and Culture Warrington became a standalone organisation with a new Senior Management Team comprising an Executive Director and Cultural Director who attend all Board meetings.

Each new trustee attends an induction day held by the Senior Management Team. Trustees are presented with a pack of information about Culture Warrington and their roles and responsibilities as a trustee; additional training is provided if required.

During the year the Trust continued to largely suspend the operation of subcommittees of the Board, with all business being carried out by the Board, although the Finance Audit and Risk Subcommittee met once during the year for a detailed review of the strategic risks affecting the charity.

#### Going concern

The charity has been able to deliver a full programme of events enabling it to continue to build its reserves. Grants received from Arts Council England into restricted funds will be spent in future periods and so these reserves will reduce over that time. However, an increase in the Management Fee from Warrington Borough Council for 2024/25 has been obtained to support core delivery. Alongside this, energy prices have decreased bringing them back to a more sustainable level.

The Directors have considered the effect on the financial position of the charity and in view of the current financial position, and the financial support available, the Directors consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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##### Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

E L Hutchinson	(Resigned 9 June 2023)
A F Appleton-Mitchell	
M T Corfield	
M Banner	
L M Harrison	
D C Simons	
R K Welsh	(Resigned 17 September 2024)
J L Wilkie	
C Persoglio	(Appointed 6 November 2023)
C Lloyd-Fitzgerald	(Appointed 21 May 2024)

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

As part of the arrangements with Warrington Borough Council, the Council nominated two observers that attend Board meetings. The Council observers during the year were Councillor Claire Lloyd-Fitzgerald and Councillor Russ Bowden.

##### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Culture Warrington for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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#### **Auditor**

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **Disclosure of information to auditor**

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

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



**M Banner**

Trustee

Dated: 10 December 2024

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Culture Warrington (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

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

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

#### Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

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

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities**

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the charity's accounting policy for revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Data Protection Regulations.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

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

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

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

*Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited*

**Philip Griffiths (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

10 December 2024

**Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

5 Temple Square  
Temple Street  
Liverpool  
L2 5RH

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>							
Charitable activities	3	3,252,062	360,490	3,612,552	2,913,221	-	2,913,221
Investments	4	37,590	-	37,590	9,995	-	9,995
<b>Total income</b>		<b>3,289,652</b>	<b>360,490</b>	<b>3,650,142</b>	<b>2,923,216</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,923,216</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	5	3,082,566	48,202	3,130,768	3,305,600	12,363	3,317,963
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>3,082,566</b>	<b>48,202</b>	<b>3,130,768</b>	<b>3,305,600</b>	<b>12,363</b>	<b>3,317,963</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>207,086</b>	<b>312,288</b>	<b>519,374</b>	<b>(382,384)</b>	<b>(12,363)</b>	<b>(394,747)</b>
Transfers between funds		(4,164)	4,164	-	(217)	217	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses:</b>							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes		55,000	-	55,000	350,742	-	350,742
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	7	<b>257,922</b>	<b>316,452</b>	<b>574,374</b>	<b>(31,859)</b>	<b>(12,146)</b>	<b>(44,005)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		1,231,794	82,212	1,314,006	1,263,653	94,358	1,358,011
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024</b>		<b>1,489,716</b>	<b>398,664</b>	<b>1,888,380</b>	<b>1,231,794</b>	<b>82,212</b>	<b>1,314,006</b>

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023 as restated	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		190,565		121,459
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	12	20,341		17,714	
Debtors	13	144,221		117,121	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,913,208		2,175,704	
		<u>3,077,770</u>		<u>2,310,539</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	<u>(1,379,955)</u>		<u>(1,117,992)</u>	
Net current assets			1,697,815		1,192,547
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>1,888,380</u>		<u>1,314,006</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>1,888,380</u>		<u>1,314,006</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	16		398,664		82,212
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	17	15,452		15,452	
General unrestricted funds		1,474,264		1,216,342	
			<u>1,489,716</u>		<u>1,231,794</u>
			<u>1,888,380</u>		<u>1,314,006</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 10 December 2024



M Banner  
Trustee

Company Registration No. 07974406

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	21		806,344		110,154
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(106,430)		(34,033)	
Interest received		37,590		9,995	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(68,840)		(24,038)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			737,504		86,116
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			2,175,704		2,089,588
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>2,913,208</u>		<u>2,175,704</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

Culture Warrington is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Pyramid Arts Centre, Palmyra Square South, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1BL.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

In view of the current financial position, the funding support available, and the continued support of our commissioners, Warrington Borough Council, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

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

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

#### 1.4 Income

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

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

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been included in support costs and allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Plant and equipment	10% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	10% on cost
Computer equipment	20% on cost

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

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

#### 1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

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

#### 1.9 Cash and 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. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### *Basic financial assets*

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### *Impairment of financial assets*

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

##### *Derecognition of financial assets*

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

##### *Basic financial liabilities*

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### *Derecognition of financial liabilities*

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.11 Employee benefits

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

#### 1.12 Retirement benefits

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

#### 3 Charitable activities

	Cultural engagement	Museum	Venue & events management	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Museum and Art gallery	1,160	5,653	-	6,813	12,081
Pyramid and Parr hall	393	-	1,458,052	1,458,445	1,326,988
Facility hire	534	-	186,644	187,178	181,520
Culture engagement	1,702	1,928	3,827	7,457	9,302
Commissions	38,876	3,551	356,955	399,382	59,899
Education	13,840	-	-	13,840	14,416
Management fee	1,528,052	11,385	-	1,539,437	1,309,015
	<u>1,584,557</u>	<u>22,517</u>	<u>2,005,478</u>	<u>3,612,552</u>	<u>2,913,221</u>
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	1,584,557	18,982	1,648,523	3,252,062	
Restricted funds	-	3,535	356,955	360,490	
	<u>1,584,557</u>	<u>22,517</u>	<u>2,005,478</u>	<u>3,612,552</u>	
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2023</b>					
Unrestricted funds	<u>1,397,940</u>	<u>5,600</u>	<u>1,509,681</u>		<u>2,913,221</u>

#### 4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>37,590</u>	<u>9,995</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Charitable activities	Cultural events		Museum		Venue and Events Management		Total 2024		Cultural events		Museum		Venue and Events Management		Total 2023	
	2024	£	2024	£	2024	£	2024	£	2023	£	2023	£	2023	£	2023	£
Staff costs	180,084		144,972		382,756		707,812		148,847		137,722		358,721		645,290	
Depreciation and impairment	3,552		1,559		27,040		32,151		3,553		1,559		18,346		23,458	
Premises expenditure	1,451		743		495,142		497,336		345		415		591,931		592,691	
Artists and event fees	49,760		5,825		701,252		756,837		51,113		3,067		601,349		655,529	
Spectrix charges	-		-		26,569		26,569		-		-		31,877		31,877	
Telephone and computer	-		-		12,617		12,617		76		-		12,082		12,158	
Printing and stationery	921		-		345		1,266		638		-		501		1,139	
Advertising	-		-		-		-		10		-		(70)		(60)	
Sundries	6,577		86,664		4,122		97,363		1,989		93,749		6,742		102,480	
Purchases and stocks	1,261		7,192		113,141		121,594		3,116		(1,975)		115,719		116,860	
Legal costs	1,248		-		39,429		40,677		30		-		41,226		41,256	
Motor, travel and entertainment	460		-		1,508		1,968		1,563		22		1,407		2,992	
Equipment hire	299		-		15,407		15,706		140		-		13,553		13,693	
EPOS charges	-		-		26,209		26,209		-		-		29,369		29,369	
Carried forward	245,613		246,955		1,845,537		2,338,105		211,420		234,559		1,822,753		2,268,732	

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Charitable activities	(Continued)												
	Cultural events		Museum	Venue and Events Management		Total 2024	Cultural events		Museum	Venue and Events Management		Total 2023	
	2024	£	2024	£	2024	£	2023	£	2023	£	2023	£	
Brought forward	245,613		246,955		1,845,537		211,420		234,559		1,822,753		2,268,732
Share of support costs (see note 6)	169,206		147,996		450,877		216,085		202,171		606,608		1,024,864
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	5,534		4,736		14,314		5,803		5,381		13,183		24,367
	420,353		399,687		2,310,728		433,308		442,111		2,442,544		3,317,963
<b>Analysis by fund</b>													
Unrestricted funds	390,459		399,687		2,292,420		433,308		441,011		2,431,281		3,305,600
Restricted funds	29,894		-		18,308		-		1,100		11,263		12,363
	420,353		399,687		2,310,728		433,308		442,111		2,442,544		3,317,963

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6	Support costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	2023	Basis of allocation
		£	£	£	£	
	Staff costs	373,722	-	373,722	543,069	Time spent
	Depreciation	5,173	-	5,173	1,239	
	Advertising and literature	46,791	-	46,791	49,534	Charitable activity levels
	Professional fees	150,564	-	150,564	157,449	Operational staff costs
	Telephone and computer	68,410	-	68,410	65,241	Device numbers
	Other central support costs	67,791	-	67,791	58,978	Operational staff costs
	Irrecoverable VAT	143,628	-	143,628	144,354	Charitable activity levels
	Net interest cost on defined benefit pension scheme	(88,000)	-	(88,000)	5,000	
	Audit fees	-	9,800	9,800	9,583	Governance
	Legal and professional	-	14,784	14,784	14,784	Governance
		<u>768,079</u>	<u>24,584</u>	<u>792,663</u>	<u>1,049,231</u>	
	Analysed between					
	Charitable activities	<u>768,079</u>	<u>24,584</u>	<u>792,663</u>	<u>1,049,231</u>	
7	<b>Net movement in funds</b>				<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
					£	£
	The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):					
	Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements				9,800	9,583
	Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets				37,324	24,696
					<u>47,124</u>	<u>34,279</u>

### 8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 9 Employees

##### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Management and administration	2	2
Operational team	56	53
	<u>58</u>	<u>55</u>

##### Employment costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	871,874	792,528
Social security costs	66,660	65,831
Other pension costs	143,000	330,000
	<u>1,081,534</u>	<u>1,188,359</u>

The members of the senior management team are employed by Livewire (Warrington) CIC.

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 10 Taxation

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023	171,341	30,889	31,414	233,644
Additions	17,111	70,039	19,280	106,430
At 31 March 2024	188,452	100,928	50,694	340,074
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 1 April 2023	72,164	22,586	17,435	112,185
Depreciation charged in the year	18,517	9,722	9,085	37,324
At 31 March 2024	90,681	32,308	26,520	149,509
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 March 2024	97,771	68,620	24,174	190,565
At 31 March 2023	99,177	8,303	13,979	121,459

### 12 Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
Raw materials and consumables	20,341	17,714

### 13 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	86,815	62,449
Prepayments and accrued income	57,406	54,672
	144,221	117,121

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	61,690	47,469
Trade creditors	227,362	197,904
Other creditors	41,448	26,769
Accruals and deferred income	1,049,455	845,850
	<u>1,379,955</u>	<u>1,117,992</u>

#### 15 Retirement benefit schemes

#### 16 Restricted funds

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

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Numismatic	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Sustainable Improvement Fund Grant	-	3,500	(592)	-	2,908
Geoblitz	1,111	-	-	-	1,111
Ready to borrow	5,343	-	(1,128)	-	4,215
Contemporary Arts	-	35	(732)	697	-
Weston Loan Programme	1,283	-	-	-	1,283
Colonel Edelsten Bequest	57,575	-	(4,918)	-	52,657
Meeting Point	6,500	-	-	-	6,500
Peter Rogerson Bequest	8,900	-	(2,090)	-	6,810
Local Growth Fund	-	-	(3,467)	3,467	-
Grass Roots Music	-	26,955	(3,736)	-	23,219
Place Partnership Fund	-	330,000	(31,539)	-	298,461
	<u>82,212</u>	<u>360,490</u>	<u>(48,202)</u>	<u>4,164</u>	<u>398,664</u>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Numismatic	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Geoblitz	1,111	-	-	-	1,111
Ready to borrow	6,471	-	(1,128)	-	5,343
Weston Loan Programme	1,283	-	-	-	1,283
Colonel Edelsten Bequest	64,243	-	(6,668)	-	57,575
Meeting Point	6,500	-	-	-	6,500
Peter Rogerson Bequest	10,000	-	(1,100)	-	8,900
Local Growth Fund	3,250	-	(3,467)	217	-
	<u>94,358</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(12,363)</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>82,212</u>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

**Numismatic** - £1,500 was received from the Northwest Museum Development Fund to improve care of and accessibility to our Numismatic collection.

**Geoblitz** - This grant via Leeds Museums is to develop and/or promote engagement with the Geology collection at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery.

**Ready to Borrow** - This grant from ACE is to enable Culture Warrington to buy equipment that provides a suitable and stable environment so that we are able to borrow paintings from National Museums.

**Contemporary Arts** - This is funding from ACE and Warrington Borough Council to fund the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival.

**Weston Loan Programme** - This grant is to cover costs relating to borrowing three paintings from National Museums Liverpool, including conservation work, transport, School of Art activity programme of artist workshops and seminars, exhibition guides, additional Front of House staff. This programme ran from May to December 2018.

**Colonel Edelsten Bequest**- This grant from the Colonel Edelsten Bequest is to fund an upgrade of equipment to improve the experience for users of Culture Warrington.

**Meeting Point** - This funding from Arts and Heritage is to enable Culture Warrington to work with and commission a local artist to produce a piece of contemporary art, and to explore showing contemporary art within a heritage context. The commissioned piece formed part of the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival for 2019.

**Peter Rogerson Bequest** - This is legacy funding from the estate of local history librarian, Peter Rogerson, to be invested in developing the Charity's Archive Service.

**Local Growth Fund** - This funding is provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership to make the existing Warrington Museum & Library building and the network of community-based libraries into hubs for the delivery of digital programmes and workshops for coding clubs, schools, local businesses and digital creatives in the community.

**Grass Roots Music** - This funding is provided by Arts Council England to support rehearsal and recording studios, promoters, festivals, and venues for live and electronic music performance such as grassroots music venues and club sector organisations to apply for support for projects.

**Place Partnership Fund** - This funding is provided by Arts Council England to support for specific types of projects that aim to make a step change in the cultural and creative opportunity in places through the Place Partnership Strand within Project Grants. These will be projects that seek to transform an aspect of cultural or creative provision in line with Let's Create and the strategic cultural development aspirations of the place the activity benefits.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Car park fund	15,452	-	-	-	-	15,452
General funds	1,476,342	3,289,652	(2,972,566)	(4,164)	-	1,789,264
	1,491,794	3,289,652	(2,972,566)	(4,164)	-	1,804,716
Pension fund	(260,000)	-	(55,000)	-	55,000	(260,000)
	1,231,794	3,289,652	(3,027,566)	(4,164)	55,000	1,544,716
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 April 2022</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Gains and losses</b>	<b>At 31 March 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Car park fund	14,711	-	-	741	-	15,452
General funds	1,263,942	2,923,216	(2,970,600)	(216)	-	1,216,342
	1,263,653	2,923,216	(3,305,600)	525	-	1,231,794
Pension fund	(1,938,000)	-	(335,000)	-	2,273,000	-
	(674,347)	2,923,216	(3,640,600)	525	2,273,000	1,231,794

The car park fund represents contributions to car parking by staff which the trustees have agreed to set aside to cover any future repair costs.

#### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	128,592	61,973	190,565	58,541	62,918	121,459
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,361,124	336,691	1,697,815	1,173,253	19,294	1,192,547
	1,489,716	398,664	1,888,380	1,231,794	82,212	1,314,006

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 19 Related party transactions

During the current and prior year Culture Warrington utilised the key management personnel and resources of Livewire (Warrington) CIC a company registered in England and Wales, company number 07972958. A recharge is incurred from Livewire (Warrington) CIC for the use of these resources.

#### 20 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

21 Cash generated from operations	2024	2023
	£	£
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	519,374	(394,747)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(37,590)	(9,995)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	37,324	24,697
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	55,000	335,742
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in stocks	(2,627)	(7,445)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(27,100)	54,384
Increase in creditors	261,963	107,519
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>806,344</b>	<b>110,155</b>

#### 22 Prior period adjustment

##### Changes to the balance sheet

	At 31 March 2023		As restated
	As previously reported	Adjustment	
	£	£	£
<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>			
Pension obligations	1,923,000	(1,923,000)	-
Capital funds			
Income funds			
Restricted funds	82,212	-	82,212
Unrestricted funds	3,154,794	(1,923,000)	1,231,794
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>3,237,006</b>	<b>(1,923,000)</b>	<b>1,314,006</b>



**CULTURE WARRINGTON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1151203

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number 1151203

Company registration number 07974406 (England and Wales)

**CULTURE WARRINGTON**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	A F Appleton-Mitchell M T Corfield M Banner L M Harrison D C Simons R K Welsh J L Wilkie
<b>Charity number</b>	1151203
<b>Company number</b>	07974406
<b>Registered office</b>	Pyramid Arts Centre Palmyra Square South Warrington Cheshire WA1 1BL
<b>Auditor</b>	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 5RH
<b>Bankers</b>	National Westminster Bank plc 23 Sankey Street Warrington Cheshire WA1 1XG
<b>Solicitors</b>	Mills & Reeve LLP 8th Floor 1 New York Street Manchester M1 4AD

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CONTENTS

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	<b>Page</b>
Chairman's statement	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 13
Independent auditor's report	14 - 17
Statement of financial activities	18
Balance sheet	19
Statement of cash flows	20
Notes to the financial statements	21 - 37

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CHAIR'S STATEMENT

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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What a year 2022/23 has been! I'm immensely proud of how the charity has dealt with and recovered from the challenges presented by COVID. The team have worked hard to plan and deliver an enriched and varied program of events across all our venues and outreach activities to bring culture back to the residents of Warrington. We have continued to welcome back visitors, with 160,925 choosing to participate in our programmes in 2022/23. The year ahead will be one of transformation and renewal.

We had much to celebrate throughout the year as May 2022 marked the 10 year anniversary of Culture Warrington delivering high quality arts and cultural services to Warrington residents. This key milestone was marked with the release of a special Anniversary video produced to showcase the impact of our services and associated social media and press releases to shout about all of the fantastic and meaningful work carried out for the community.

The connection between artists, audience and communities lies at the heart of our programmes.

This year's WCAF programme was a huge success and included our most diverse programme to date. Using the theme of connections the 2022 programme created opportunities for creatives within the town to connect and collaborate through the formation and presentation of bodies of work. Enabling our communities to explore and connect to the festival alongside enabling individuals to connect and develop their skills and experiences through the programme's CPD opportunities and workshops.

The team presented a vast programme of exhibitions, performances, workshops, commissions and live music spanning 4 venues (Pyramid, WMAG, New Art Spaces, Parrs Bank), expanding opportunities for the public to experience visual art by housing these in accessible locations throughout the town. In partnership with WVR College, the team introduced a new Festival Fringe Inspiring the town's future generations of artists and engaging new audiences.

Our events team continued to develop our programmes significantly in quality, content and attraction. Our packed programme from the worlds of music, comedy, family shows and speaker tours have kept our customers entertained throughout the year. We also continued to host our many community groups who chose Parr Hall to perform their annual shows.

April 2022/23 saw the reopening of the Warrington Museum and Art Gallery and Central Library building after its closure to allow for a much-needed renovation of the roof. The reopening saw the team's award-winning programme of events and special exhibitions resume as well as the return of the town's much valued archives and local history services, enabling residents to search their family tree, the history of their house, or learn about the part of Warrington they live in. Throughout the renovation works the team did a fantastic job of keeping the people connected with Warrington's unique history and culture through the delivery of an outreach programme at the temporary Pop Up Museum and Library in the Golden Square shopping centre.

Working with the National Science Museum Group and SSE Heritage our Collections, Heritage and Archives team identified a variety of items from the decommissioned Fiddler's Ferry Power Station – one of the town's historical landmarks. These artefacts went on to feature in the 'Fiddler's Ferry: Cloud Factory' exhibition by local artist Shaun Smyth and photographer Lee Harrison at WMAG. The exhibition marked 50 years of the power station, documenting the site and creating a visual historical archive for future generations.

Culture Warrington worked alongside Golden Square to launch the 'Sky Garden' on the top floor of the shopping centre's car park in August 2022. Designed as a 'living addition' to WMAG's natural history offer, the rooftop garden is for educational projects where young people can learn about the environment and growing food. The initiative saw our education team talk about the 'Sky Garden' project at key events at the Storyhouse Climate summit day, SMILE science education network day, and the Green Museums Summit.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CHAIR'S STATEMENT

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023***

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I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board trustees for their invaluable contributions and commitment to the work of the Board. On behalf of all the Board of Trustees I would like to say thank you to our dedicated, talented and committed staff, volunteers and partners who have worked to ensure we maintain meaningful, high quality experience and programmes for the residents of Warrington throughout 2022/23.

I believe participation in cultural activities has never been more important for communities and we at Culture Warrington are committed to continue providing a diverse and relevant cultural offer for the residents of Warrington.



**M Banner**

Chair

Dated: 19 September 2023

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

#### **Public benefit**

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

#### **Objectives and activities**

The objectives of the charity, as set out in the Articles of Association are:

- To advance education of and promote the arts, culture, heritage and science, in particular through providing and maintaining a museum, art gallery and concert hall;
- To promote community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the playing of amateur sport;
- The provision of or assistance in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare such facilities being provided to the public at large save that special facilities may be provided to persons who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social or economic circumstances may have need of special facilities and services.

Culture Warrington was formed in May 2012 as the lead organisation to deliver Arts, Heritage and Events in Warrington, and encompasses three venues, Pyramid, Parr Hall and Warrington Museum & Art Gallery. As well as operating these venues Culture Warrington programmes a wide range of events and festivals.

Culture Warrington operates the Museum, Pyramid and Parr Hall on 25 year leases from Warrington Borough Council at a peppercorn rent as part of the management agreement to deliver services. It is impractical to assign a separate rental value to the buildings.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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### Highlights of our work

#### Programming

After an extraordinary period and the exceptional challenges of the pandemic, 2022/23 saw Pyramid and Parr Hall bounce back to deliver a bumper programme that consisted of a wide range of arts and cultural events and community hires at Pyramid and Parr Hall. The venue and events team worked with national promoters and agents to develop a programme that was not only inclusive but one that was exciting and varied; offering something for everyone. Parr Hall and Pyramid's events programme for 2022/23 included:

- Performances by comedians such as Jason Manford, Dave Gorman, Jasper Carrott, Chris McCausland, Dara O'Briain, Paul Smith, Al Murray, Sean Walsh and Mark Watson
- Shows by Strictly Come Dancing 'Keeeeeep Dancing', 'The Gruffalo' by Tall Stories Theatre, theatrical show Sleepover, Circus of Horrors, Ministry of Science, Helen Forester's 'Two Pence to Cross the Mersey' and comedy theatre show Dirty Dusting
- Musical entertainment from punk stalwarts Stiff Little Fingers, From The Jam featuring the original bassist from The Jam, Bruce Foxton, The Proclaimers, Miles Kane, Paul Young, The Drifters, Don't Stop Believing, Ultimate RnB, The Lottery Winners, Fisherman's Friends, Pop Princesses, The Meatloaf Songbook, ABBA Reunion, East 17's Christmas Tour, Showaddywaddy, Oktoberfest Beer Festival, The ELO Show, Brutus Gold's Love Train and a performance by Bombay Bicycle Club
- Our "An evening with..." programme featured Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Vinnie Jones and Paul Gascoigne, SAS Who Dares Wins' Mark 'Billy' Billingham, Francis Rossi, astronaut Tim Peak, Lulu and Robbie Fowler

This year's programme also included:

- *Culture Warrington hosting BBC's Question Time*
- *The Psychology of Serial Killers* a chilling talk from former forensics lecturer, Jennifer Rees
- Screening of *Wallace and Gromit* accompanied by live brass band
- Two Pints Live podcast with Will Mellor and Ralph Little. The pair brought their live podcast to Warrington for the first time and it featured in Culture Warrington's 10th anniversary video
- And finally not forgetting Parr Hall's very own pantomime, Dick Whittington

We are delighted that some of the biggest stars are continuing to choose Parr Hall as an intimate warm-up venue to get closer to the fans. After recently welcoming The Script In 2021/22, Culture Warrington announced an exciting one-off show on 29th June 2022 with Manchester indie giants James ahead of their Castlefield Bowl homecoming.

2022/23 saw the team at Pyramid hire the venue to the BBC as a rehearsal space by the team at Strictly Come Dancing, supporting Kym Marsh and her professional dance partner Graziano Di Prima to get to week 11 in the competition.

Culture Warrington continued to offer a programme of weekly classes for community activities in the Pyramid Arts Centre. Classes included: community choir, commercial dance, youth theatre, yoga, ballroom dancing, and children's ballet.

#### Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival (WCAF 2022)

October 2022 saw Culture Warrington deliver its 12<sup>th</sup> Warrington contemporary arts festival (WCAF) with a packed and eclectic programme of events, spanning almost two months.

The theme for WCAF 2022 was 'Connections' and enabled the team to celebrate the opportunities that Culture Warrington continues to open up for creatives in the area.

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## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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WCAF 2022 saw the return of the Open Exhibition guest curated by Mario Popham. For the first time work in this exhibition was displayed alongside work from the museum's permanent collection. Meanwhile a previous winner of the Open exhibition John McLeod's launched his debut solo exhibition 'Pulled'. The Open Exhibition included work by 76 artists with 318 submissions.

Other firsts as part of the festival included the introduction of a 'Fringe Festival' in partnership with Warrington and Vale Royal College and 'Scratch Night', which provided North West creatives the exciting chance to share works in progress for peer review and audience feedback, and an abstract fashion illustration workshop led by Warrington's own Tony Green, who has designed items for luxury brands worldwide and has had his illustrations featured in Vogue.

It is one of two fashion events in addition to Table Manners, a quirky sustainable fashion show which took place at the picturesque Parr's Bank.

WCAF 2022 included a new focus on live music with highlights including acclaimed Liverpool art pop trio Stealing Sheep and fellow Liverpool-based songwriter Sara Wolff, as heard on BBC Radio 6, who both performed in the unconventional setting of our Warrington Museum and Art Gallery.

Meanwhile, festival organisers welcomed back dance artist, Julia Griffin, whose visceral installation and performance piece, I Used To Be, was one of the highlights of last year's festival. For WCAF 2022 the dance artist teamed up with James Colvin and Steve Sutton to present Trap, a haunting yet fascinating performance based around a metal cage and a moving sculpture made of tree limbs.

WCAF 2022 supported and celebrated local and regional artists through commissions, performance platforms, presentations, in kind rehearsal space, research & development opportunities, match funding, marketing support, funding support, workshops and staff support.

#### Grass Roots Music

Over the past 12 months, Culture Warrington has embarked on a journey to create a grass roots music venue to harvest new and emerging talent in Warrington; ultimately a safe space to learn, experiment and fine tune live production has been under construction. In summary the team has converted the basement of the Pyramid and re-purposed it into a space to bring audiences together to enjoy live music, produced here in Warrington.

The team submitted a bid to the Arts Council's Grass Root Music Fund and secured £29,995 of funding that has now funded equipment to enable us to develop the program in Pyramid. In addition to the regular live performances, Pyramid will also host weekly music production workshops, where attendees can learn to use music production software recording skills. This is a very exciting addition to the program that will be available to children and adults alike.

#### Warrington Museum and Art Gallery (WMAG)

The Warrington Museum and Art Gallery (WMAG) re-opened on 23rd April 2022 after almost 16 months of closure to allow for essential roof work to be undertaken. The re-opening day saw a programme of activities throughout the building including storytelling, art workshops, digital workshops, live music, performance art and more. As part of the re-opening event the Archives Team unveiled a bespoke mural in the Archives search room created by Warrington artist Cameron Brown.

Following reopening in April the team put on a programme of events and performances to bring WMAG back to life after the building's long closure:

- Sunday Music Sessions: In partnership with Priestly College, Culture Warrington launched a Sunday music session at WMAG. The sessions saw WMAG host two music students from Priestly College who perform a 20-30 minute set each in the Large Art Gallery. The introduction of the Sunday music sessions provides students with a safe space to learn, experiment as well as providing young musicians with experience of performing to an audience in a unique setting.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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- Guided Tours are back!: 2022 saw the team reintroduce Gallery tours including visits from Uniform groups, Warrington's Speak Up group, Women's Institute, Chester Civic Society and Tameside Archaeological Society.
- 'Everything About Us': Thanks to funding from Cheshire Community Foundation, Culture Warrington commissioned an artists' take-over event at WMAG in June 2022. A team of 'Creative Caretakers' delivered workshops based upon the Queen's acts of kindness, providing opportunities for children and their families to share stories of their own acts of kindness through dance, crafts, storytelling, puppetry and performance.
- Additional uplift funding from Cheshire Community Foundation enabled the team to deliver a short series of free workshops for adults in WMAG including 'An introductory to magazine making' and 'Portrait painting'. These free workshops targeted a new audience aged 16+

#### Heritage

2022/23 has been a busy year for Culture Warrington's Heritage team as they continued to provide access to our collections. Work during 2022/23 saw the team deliver the following:

- In partnership with Daresbury Laboratory Engagement Team, trialled STEM workshops on James Webb Telescope for local Warrington schools
- Worked with the National Science Museum Group and SSE Heritage to collect a variety of items from the decommissioned Fiddler's Ferry Power Station. These artefacts were featured in the 'Fiddler's Ferry: Cloud Factory' exhibition at WMAG in October
- Delivered a programme of activities as part of Heritage Open Days with a focus on Astounding Inventions
- Collaborated with Salford Archaeology to investigate the history of the skeletons discovered at the Warrington Youth Zone in 2020 and scoping out ways they could be interpreted in Culture Warrington's galleries
- Worked with the 'Tiny Egypt' project to document small Egyptological items in the museum collection
- Returned Walter Langley's painting 'Between the Tides' which formed part of an exhibition at WMAG commemorating 100 years since the artist's death. The painting is considered one of Langley's most important works and the exhibition was a great success, attracting a total of 12,203 visitors during its presentation
- Commenced a series of Made.Digital training sessions for local heritage groups, offering courses on digitisation, oral history and using Archival Book Scanners
- Delivered a specially written talk on the life and work fashion designer Ossie Clarke for LGBT+ History month on 22 February 2023 at the University of Chester Centre

#### Education Programme

Upon their return back to Museum Street, Culture Warrington's Education team re-established the on-site educational offer. In addition to our thematic day to day educational offer, WMAG visits, workshops and loan boxes, the Education Team have been delivering a range of complementary offers:

- Historic England Continued Professional Development (CPD): Fully funded by Historic England, 10 Central Six schools participated in a full year of CPD with the Warrington Museum and Historic England. The outcome of the CDP being that the schools will be the first in Warrington to be able to apply for Historic Schools Status.
- Sky Garden Project: Funded by Museum Development North West, Sky Garden in partnership with Golden Square Shopping Centre officially opened in August 2022, which saw over 200 children attended workshops across the year; the recruitment of a Garden Volunteer Team and establishment of a community events programme with highlights such as garden jumble and foraging talks

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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- National Archaeology festival: The team planned and delivered an event for the national archaeology festival during the summer holidays. The event enabled the team to gather feedback for a proposed new display and workshops for the skeletal remains discovered at Warrington Youth Zone.
- 'Wild Escapes' funding: Funding received from Arts Council England to support an eco-artist to deliver nature themed activity "Wild Escapes" at WMAG, linked to a new BBC natural history show. The funding include purchase of materials to be used as part of the Sky Garden workshops in the future.

#### Outreach and Community Engagement

As a cultural Charity a key part of our offer is to develop opportunities for community engagement across the town, offering cultural experiences for all ages and abilities. Our aim is to make culture more accessible by providing activities across the town.

Rugby League World Cup (RLWC) / Warrington Youth Zone (WYZ) partnership: Culture Warrington supported young people from WYZ to learn and rehearse a new piece of choreography that they performed on the pitch at the Papua New Guinea vs Cook Island RLWC game in October. The young people worked with local choreographer Stacey Atkinson to create a bespoke performance themed around the RLWC strap line 'Stronger Together'

As part of the RLWC cultural programme Culture Warrington produced a family friendly day of free drop in workshops for children, young people and their families. Themed around the environment and sustainability 6 local artists delivered a range of workshops supported by 6 volunteers from WVR College. The workshops were well received and animated the space.

December saw the team at Culture Warrington work in partnership with and be commissioned by Warrington BID, to create a diverse programme as part of the Warrington Weekend Wonderland. The aim of the programme was to engage the community within the wider programme and encourage communities to come into the town centre encouraging dwell time. Elements of the programme that the team at Culture Warrington led on were:

- Twelve community lantern workshops with identified groups and communities including the Wolves Foundation SEND Wolfprint, The Old School (Central 6) Hong Kong community, plus full day drop in workshop at Chester University
- Two days of walkabouts acts (Grinch, Candy-cane Stilt walkers, and elves).
- Christmas projection onto the Town Hall
- 'At No.25', a commission from Warrington Borough Council took over a new empty unit in Golden Square Shopping Centre with two new Warrington artists developing a new proposal. This year's space was inspired by Hygge which describes a sense of cosiness. The Nordic inspired space also had a care and wellbeing element with cosy reading snug area encouraging shoppers to enjoy some peace and quiet away from Christmas shopping and free arts and crafts table for families to enjoy. In addition, the team commissioned the development of a new festive character, Tomte, who engaged shoppers and led three free drop in storytelling workshops

#### Engagement

Culture Warrington's Cultural Manager was instrumental in engaging with and facilitating a number of key projects with partners. These projects complement the Charity's mission to create opportunities for residents of Warrington to engage in cultural activities.

- Company Carpi: When You Light a Candle You Also Cast a Shadow - A bespoke performance delivered by Culture Warrington in partnership with Lancaster Arts and the Dance Consortia North West saw three contemporary dancers and a string quintet perform in the large art gallery at WMAG against the backdrop of art work by Steve Sutton. The team at Culture Warrington were involved in all stages of the project including call out, interview, R&D, rehearsal and helping produce the final piece. The project demonstrated an effective way for the Charity to work with partners to produce a more bespoke performance piece for our venues in the future.

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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- Kindred Folk: Lost – The final instalment of the Kindred Folk programme saw the delivery of a new piece of dance choreography with storytelling and spoken word. The dance was presented to school children as part of LiveWire's week-long Litfest. The show was mesmerising, sensitively tackling issues children face such as confidence, resilience and friendship. Culture Warrington's engagement team will continue working with Kindred folk to redevelop and present the piece in other locations within the town.

This year also saw the engagement team support 3 local creatives with the development of new work:

- Connor Elliman in the creation of a new dance choreography with live music accompaniment around the lives of the Queer community which was performed at Chester Pride in August
- James Hewison and 3 Warrington based dancers and 1 filmmaker in the development of Hard Wired regards males upbringing in Warrington
- Rae Bell in the development of her 2 woman show about Boobs and breast cancer awareness that was premiered at WCAF in October

#### Exhibitions

During 2022/23 Culture Warrington hosted 29 exhibitions. The quality of our temporary exhibitions demonstrates how Culture Warrington champions new and emerging talent in the area and we continue to support local artists through free studio space, marketing and bespoke one-to-one support to assist in developing, researching and rehearsing new work.

Highlights from Culture Warrington's exhibition programme included:

- Lagoons: Artist Ruby Tingle was commissioned to create an exhibition inspired by the museum's frogs and lizards collections as well as key painting from the fine art collection. Her exhibition included the digital release of an EP of songs inspired by the collections released on Spotify, entitled Lagoons, alongside live performance elements throughout the exhibition to create a uniquely engaging experience for visitors. The songs were also performed live by Ruby at the opening night.
- Precarious Existence: Steve Sutton, artist based in Castlefield New Art Spaces was invited to display some of his large scale environmental sculptures as part of his debut solo show at WMAG. His tree based sculptures made an incredible visual impact on some of the museum spaces, particularly the large art gallery. One piece included a tree suspended from the Botany gallery balcony, which helped highlight and refresh the permanent galleries.
- Pastel TV: Warrington born artist Emily Garner – known as 'Pastel Castle' presented an immersive and multimedia showcase of their work at Pyramid Arts Centre. Heavily influenced by video game environments and the virtual worlds found in Pokémon, The Legend of Zelda and Jade Cocoon the exhibition generated engagement from a younger audience.
- Fiddlers Ferry: Artists Shaun Smyth and Lee Harrison exhibition marked 50 years of Fiddler's Ferry power station and its importance to the area's industry, which closed in 2020. With its eight 374 ft high cooling towers and 660 ft high chimney, the station has been a prominent local landmark since construction began in 1962. The two artists gained access to the site during the decommissioning process and through Harrison's photography and Smyth's large-scale paintings, this exhibition attempted to convey the physical enormity of the site as well as its significance to the region.
- A Buffet of Mortification: Local artist Anna FC Smith's exhibition explored the theatre and spectacle of punishment and order. Inspired by items in the Museum's collections and Warrington's connections with John Howard and his publication The State of The Prisons of England and Wales, Smith has researched public punishments in Warrington and created new work that references the courtroom through the use of ceramic chickens and rodents, playing out the actions of humans. The exhibition examined the methods and rituals around social control and brings into question ideas of power, mob mentality, public entertainment and our need to shame others.

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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- Ossie Clark x Little Nell: The temporary display in the Museum's Cabinet of Curiosities Gallery was a rare opportunity to see a selection of works by the legendary Warrington-born fashion designer, alongside new work created by Little Nell (Sophie New), inspired by Ossie Clark's designs.
- Portals: A collaboration between artists Steve Sutton and Jack Dickinson who are based at Castlefield New Art Spaces: Warrington. The outcome was the creation of three new collaborative works which incorporated sculpture, drawing and painting.
- Wyrd by Robert Watson: From and based in Warrington, Robert Watson's portfolio spans over two decades and he is an internationally exhibited, award-winning photographer. Robert won the Open Exhibition in 2017.
- No7 Studio group show: In 2019 Culture Warrington created a new affordable studio space attached to Warrington Museum & Art Gallery: No 7 Artists' Studios. This group exhibition collects together for the first time some of the work produced by our current studio artists.
- Utopolis by Jasmir Creed: Jasmir Creed is a British South Asian artist whose paintings explore urban alienation and the contemporary transcultural. Jasmir's work was selected as part of the Open exhibition in 2015.

#### Our Achievements

Number of customers who participated in Culture Warrington activities in the last 12 months – 160,925\*

The number of people who chose to visit the Parr Hall 2022/23 – 68,142

The number of people who participated in activities at Pyramid Arts Centre – 20,992

Number of people engaged in Culture Warrington's outreach and engagement activities – 11,076

Number of people visited Warrington Museum and Art Gallery – 36,309

Number of people visiting Pyramid Arts Centre and Parr Hall for some other reason – 8,367

Parr Hall hosted 136 events throughout 2022/23

Pyramid Arts Centre was hired 987 times during 2022/23 for programmed events and classes

Number of Archive Search Room visits – 1,691

Number of archive enquiries – 1,236

Number of supported visits to the Archive Service – 3,151

Number of formal education sessions delivered – 163

Number of people engaged in formal education sessions – 4,070

Number of volunteer hours supported by Culture Warrington during 2022/23 – 1,873.5

Number of staff employed by Culture Warrington – 59 (end of March 2023)

23 days training delivered to employees

£831,671 spend in the local economy

\*Figure excluding Commissions

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### Looking forward

We have much to look forward to as we approach the new financial year. Much more will be achieved through our continued and collaborative effort to continue to develop a vibrant, diverse and thriving cultural and creative offer for the residents of Warrington.

- Pyramid Arts Centre Development – we will continue to prepare for the exciting £5 million plans to redevelop Pyramid Arts Centre as part of the Town Deal Funding for Warrington.
- Place Partnership Funding – We plan to submit an application to Arts Council England to support Culture Warrington to widen our engagement borough-wide delivering 3 new programmes: Community Engagement, Young People, and Artist Development which will underpin and feed into a strengthened Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival (WCAF) each Spring (2024 and 2025) widening participation for all.
- WMAG long term strategy – the team at WMAG and a steering group consisting of Culture Warrington and Warrington Borough Council worked with heritage consultant Angela Gill during 2022/23 to develop a new vision for WMAG. This work will be used as a basis to develop a roadmap, with associated timescales, to work towards delivering our vision for the Museum in 2023/24.
- Warrington Music Festival - The Warrington Music Festival, last held in 2019, is set to return on 3 June 2023, providing a much-anticipated platform for emerging musical talent in the region. The festival aims to create a fantastic day of live music, with performances taking place at the historic Old Market Place as the main location, offering a unique and vibrant backdrop. This year's festival is a collaborative effort between Culture Warrington, Score Creative, Golden Square, and Warrington BID (Business Improvement District).

#### Financial review

In the year ended 31 March 2023 Culture Warrington recorded a deficit of £394,747 (2022: surplus of £225,121), prior to actuarial gains from the pension scheme, from incoming resources of £2,923,216 (2022: £3,049,571).

After taking into account the actuarial gains there was an overall increase in funds from £1,358,011 to £3,237,006 as at 31 March 2023.

The cash position remains at a healthy level with cash levels being at £2,175,704 as at 31 March 2023 (2022 £2,089,588).

The strong financial position at the start of the financial year put the charity in a stable financial position to withstand the financial shocks being felt in 2022/23 as inflation, and particularly energy prices, increased our operating costs significantly. As a result the charity has used some of its reserves to meet those costs but has agreed new funding arrangements for 2023/24 to mitigate the impact.

#### Reserves policy

The purpose of the reserves policy for Culture Warrington is to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations of the charity. The charity's unrestricted reserves are intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in costs, significant unbudgeted costs, or unanticipated loss in income or funding. The unrestricted reserves may also be used for investment in infrastructure. The unrestricted reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds but may be used to implement actions to deal with the impact of such a loss.

The target minimum unrestricted reserve (excluding reserves relating to the pension scheme) is equal to one month's average operating costs – currently this would equate to £200,000 – and the trustees will seek to maintain reserves at this level. The Trustees will balance the growth in unrestricted reserves to the target level with investment into projects which extend the reach of the cultural offer in Warrington by splitting any annual surpluses equally between these two objectives.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **Structure, governance and management**

Culture Warrington is a charitable company with Articles of Association and governed by a Board of Trustees. Culture Warrington is constituted as a limited company by guarantee without share capital.

The trustees are directly elected by the Trust. Culture Warrington agreed with Warrington Borough Council that the Council is entitled to nominate two observers.

The Board of Trustees has met formally six times during the year.

The Senior Management Team, comprising the Managing Director, Finance Director, Health and Wellbeing Director, and People Performance and Resources Director, attend all Board meetings.

The Managing Director, Finance Director, Health and Wellbeing Director, and People Performance and Resources Director are employed by LiveWire (Warrington) CIC, and a management support services contract is in place detailing the areas of provision Culture Warrington receives from LiveWire (Warrington) CIC. One trustee is currently a member of both Warrington Cultural Trust and LiveWire (Warrington) CIC Boards.

Each new trustee attends an induction day held by the Senior Management Team. Trustees are presented with a pack of information about Culture Warrington and their roles and responsibilities as a trustee; additional training is provided if required.

During the year the Trust continued to largely suspend the operation of subcommittees of the Board, with all business being carried out by the Board, although the Finance Audit and Risk Subcommittee met once during the year for a detailed review of the strategic risks affecting the charity.

### **Going concern**

The charity had been sustained through closures during 2020 and 2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic by the continued support of our commissioners, Warrington Borough Council, and by grants from Arts Council England.

The increase in energy prices, and inflation generally, have had an impact on our ability to deliver a sustainable cultural programme and the charity has had to use some of its reserves to deal with these unprecedented costs during 2022/23. The directors have obtained an increase in the Management Fee from Warrington Borough Council for 2023/24 and continue discussions with the Council on support for energy costs for the venues.

The directors have considered the effect on the financial position of the charity and in view of the current financial position, and the financial support available, the directors consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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### Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

E L Hutchinson (Resigned 9 June 2023)  
A F Appleton-Mitchell  
M T Corfield  
M Banner  
L M Harrison  
D C Simons  
R K Welsh  
J L Wilkie

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

As part of the arrangements with Warrington Borough Council, the Council nominated two observers that attend Board meetings. The Council observers during the year were Councillor M McLaughlin and Councillor Claire Lloyd-Fitzgerald.

### Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Culture Warrington for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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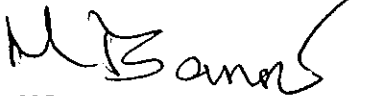
#### **Auditor**

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **Disclosure of information to auditor**

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

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



**M Banner**

Trustee

Dated: 19 September 2023

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Culture Warrington (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

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

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

#### Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

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

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities**

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the charity's accounting policy for revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included the Data Protection Regulations.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

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

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

#### Use of our report

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

*Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited*

**Philip Griffiths (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

21 September 2023

**Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

3rd Floor  
5 Temple Square  
Temple Street  
Liverpool  
Merseyside  
L2 5RH

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>							
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	-	312,593	-	312,593
Charitable activities	4	2,913,221	-	2,913,221	2,651,223	85,549	2,736,772
Investments	5	9,995	-	9,995	206	-	206
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,923,216</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,923,216</b>	<b>2,964,022</b>	<b>85,549</b>	<b>3,049,571</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>							
Charitable activities	6	3,305,600	12,363	3,317,963	2,761,567	62,883	2,824,450
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers</b>		<b>(382,384)</b>	<b>(12,363)</b>	<b>(394,747)</b>	<b>202,455</b>	<b>22,666</b>	<b>225,121</b>
Gross transfers between funds		(217)	217	-	(21,893)	21,893	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net (outgoing)/incoming resources</b>		<b>(382,601)</b>	<b>(12,146)</b>	<b>(394,747)</b>	<b>180,562</b>	<b>44,559</b>	<b>225,121</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>							
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes		2,273,742	-	2,273,742	981,000	-	981,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>1,891,141</b>	<b>(12,146)</b>	<b>1,878,995</b>	<b>1,161,562</b>	<b>44,559</b>	<b>1,206,121</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		1,263,653	94,358	1,358,011	102,091	49,799	151,890
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>3,154,794</b>	<b>82,212</b>	<b>3,237,006</b>	<b>1,263,653</b>	<b>94,358</b>	<b>1,358,011</b>

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		121,459		112,122
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	12	17,714		10,269	
Debtors	13	117,121		171,505	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,175,704		2,089,588	
		<u>2,310,539</u>		<u>2,271,362</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	<u>(1,117,992)</u>		<u>(1,010,473)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,192,547</u>		<u>1,260,889</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>1,314,006</u>		<u>1,373,011</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension surplus/(deficit)</b>			<u>1,314,006</u>		<u>1,373,011</u>
<b>Defined benefit pension surplus/(deficit)</b>	15		<u>1,923,000</u>		<u>(15,000)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u><u>3,237,006</u></u>		<u><u>1,358,011</u></u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	16		82,212		94,358
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	17	15,452		14,711	
General unrestricted funds		1,216,342		1,263,942	
Pension reserve		<u>1,923,000</u>		<u>(15,000)</u>	
			<u>3,154,794</u>		<u>1,263,653</u>
			<u><u>3,237,006</u></u>		<u><u>1,358,011</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 19 September 2023



M Banner  
Trustee

Company Registration No. 07974406

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	21		110,154		510,514
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(34,033)		(20,577)	
Interest received		9,995		206	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(24,038)		(20,371)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			86,116		490,143
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			2,089,588		1,599,445
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>2,175,704</u>		<u>2,089,588</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

Culture Warrington is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Pyramid Arts Centre, Palmyra Square South, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1BL.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

In view of the current financial position, the funding support available, and the continued support of our commissioners, Warrington Borough Council, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

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

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

#### 1.4 Income

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

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

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been included in support costs and allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Plant and equipment	10% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	10% on cost
Computer equipment	20% on cost

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

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

#### 1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

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

#### 1.9 Cash and 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. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### *Basic financial assets*

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### ***Impairment of financial assets***

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the Impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

##### ***Derecognition of financial assets***

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

##### ***Basic financial liabilities***

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### ***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.11 Employee benefits

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

#### 1.12 Retirement benefits

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

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

### 3 Donations and legacies

	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grants	-	119,203
Other Covid-19 support grants	-	193,390
	<u>-</u>	<u>312,593</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 4 Charitable activities

	Cultural engagement £	Museum £	Venue & events management £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Museum and Art gallery	7,819	4,146	116	12,081	1,615
Pyramid and Parr hall	3,454	-	1,323,534	1,326,988	1,100,659
Facility hire	-	-	181,520	181,520	156,181
Culture engagement	1,412	879	7,011	9,302	26,973
Commissions	61,824	575	(2,500)	59,899	127,920
Education	14,416	-	-	14,416	14,409
Management fee	1,309,015	-	-	1,309,015	1,309,015
	<u>1,397,940</u>	<u>5,600</u>	<u>1,509,681</u>	<u>2,913,221</u>	<u>2,736,772</u>
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	<u>1,397,940</u>	<u>5,600</u>	<u>1,509,681</u>	<u>2,913,221</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2022					
Unrestricted funds	1,399,635	1,133	1,250,455		2,651,223
Restricted funds	73,007	42	12,500		85,549
	<u>1,472,642</u>	<u>1,175</u>	<u>1,262,955</u>		<u>2,736,772</u>

### 5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Deposit account Interest	<u>9,995</u>	<u>206</u>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 6 Charitable activities

	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2023	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023		2022	2022	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	148,847	137,722	358,721	645,290	151,754	104,569	263,230	519,553
Depreciation and impairment	3,553	1,559	18,346	23,458	3,959	1,559	15,800	21,318
Premises expenditure	345	415	591,931	592,691	614	432	325,826	326,872
Artists and event fees	51,113	3,067	601,349	655,529	88,511	759	545,180	634,450
Spectrix charges	-	-	31,877	31,877	-	-	19,066	19,066
Telephone and computer	76	-	12,082	12,158	-	-	6,869	6,869
Printing and stationery	538	-	501	1,139	695	-	139	834
Advertising	10	-	(70)	(60)	1,000	-	11	1,011
Sundries	1,989	93,749	6,742	102,480	2,133	95,530	8,109	105,772
Purchases and stocks	3,116	(1,975)	115,719	116,860	-	-	76,461	76,461
Legal costs	30	-	41,226	41,256	3,133	-	34,267	37,400
Motor, travel and entertainment	1,563	22	1,407	2,992	324	-	1,652	1,976
Equipment hire	140	-	13,553	13,693	285	-	12,013	12,298
Interest	-	-	29,369	29,369	-	-	19,964	19,964
Carried forward	211,420	234,559	1,822,753	2,268,732	252,408	202,849	1,328,587	1,783,844

**CULTURE WARRINGTON**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**6 Charitable activities**

(Continued)

	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2023	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023		2022	2022	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	211,420	234,559	1,822,753	2,268,732	252,408	202,849	1,328,587	1,783,844
Share of support costs (see note 7)	216,085	202,171	606,608	1,024,864	280,238	199,550	537,888	1,017,676
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	5,803	5,381	13,183	24,367	6,919	4,777	11,234	22,930
	<u>433,308</u>	<u>442,111</u>	<u>2,442,544</u>	<u>3,317,963</u>	<u>539,565</u>	<u>407,176</u>	<u>1,877,709</u>	<u>2,824,450</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>								
Unrestricted funds	433,308	441,011	2,431,281	3,305,600	484,834	407,176	1,869,557	2,761,567
Restricted funds	-	1,100	11,263	12,363	54,731	-	8,152	62,883
	<u>433,308</u>	<u>442,111</u>	<u>2,442,544</u>	<u>3,317,963</u>	<u>539,565</u>	<u>407,176</u>	<u>1,877,709</u>	<u>2,824,450</u>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7 Support costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	2022	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Staff costs	543,069	-	543,069	537,793	Time spent
Depreciation	1,239	-	1,239	584	
Advertising and literature	49,534	-	49,534	31,403	Charitable activity levels
Professional fees	157,449	-	157,449	181,176	Operational staff costs
Telephone and computer	65,241	-	65,241	64,292	Device numbers
Other central support costs	58,978	-	58,978	68,852	Operational staff costs
Irrecoverable VAT	144,354	-	144,354	116,576	Charitable activity levels
Net interest cost on defined benefit pension scheme	5,000	-	5,000	17,000	
Audit fees	-	9,583	9,583	8,146	Governance
Legal and professional	-	14,784	14,784	14,784	Governance
	<u>1,024,864</u>	<u>24,367</u>	<u>1,049,231</u>	<u>1,040,606</u>	
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	<u>1,024,864</u>	<u>24,367</u>	<u>1,049,231</u>	<u>1,040,606</u>	

### 8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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### 9 Employees

#### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Management and administration	2	3
Operational team	53	53
	<u>55</u>	<u>56</u>

#### Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	792,528	668,015
Social security costs	65,831	47,397
Other pension costs	330,000	341,934
	<u>1,188,359</u>	<u>1,057,346</u>

The members of the senior management team are employed by Livewire (Warrington) CIC.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

### 10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2022	144,940	30,299	68,125	243,364
Additions	26,401	590	7,042	34,033
Disposals	-	-	(43,753)	(43,753)
At 31 March 2023	171,341	30,889	31,414	233,644
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 1 April 2022	54,969	19,610	56,663	131,242
Depreciation charged in the year	17,195	2,976	4,525	24,696
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	(43,753)	(43,753)
At 31 March 2023	72,164	22,586	17,435	112,185
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 March 2023	99,177	8,303	13,979	121,459
At 31 March 2022	89,971	10,689	11,462	112,122

### 12 Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Raw materials and consumables	17,714	10,269

### 13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	62,449	126,562
Prepayments and accrued income	54,672	44,943
	117,121	171,505

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	47,469	27,534
Trade creditors	197,904	225,793
Other creditors	26,769	44,128
Accruals and deferred income	845,850	713,018
	<u>1,117,992</u>	<u>1,010,473</u>

#### 15 Retirement benefit schemes

##### Defined benefit schemes

The charity's employees belong to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is managed by Cheshire Pension Fund. This is a multi-employer defined-benefit scheme.

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds.

The principal actuarial assumptions are as follows;

##### Key assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Discount rate	4.75	2.75
Expected rate of increase of pensions in payment	2.95	3.15
Expected rate of salary increases	3.65	3.85
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

##### Mortality assumptions

The assumed life expectations on retirement at age 65 are:

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.9	21.2
- Females	24.8	23.8
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21	22.1
- Females	25.4	25.5
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 15 Retirement benefit schemes (Continued)

Amounts recognised in the profit and loss account:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Current service cost	330,000	311,000
Net interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	5,000	17,000
Other costs and income	-	7,000
	<u>335,000</u>	<u>335,000</u>

Amounts taken to other comprehensive income:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Actual return on scheme assets	593,000	(426,000)
Less: calculated interest element	173,000	121,000
	<u>766,000</u>	<u>(305,000)</u>
Return on scheme assets excluding interest income	766,000	(305,000)
Actuarial changes related to obligations	(3,039,000)	(676,000)
	<u>(2,273,000)</u>	<u>(981,000)</u>

The amounts included in the balance sheet arising from the charity's obligations in respect of defined benefit plans are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Present value of defined benefit obligations	3,757,000	6,314,000
Fair value of plan assets	(5,680,000)	(6,299,000)
	<u>(1,923,000)</u>	<u>15,000</u>

Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations:

	2023
	£
Liabilities at 1 April 2022	6,314,000
Current service cost	330,000
Benefits paid	(71,000)
Contributions from scheme members	45,000
Actuarial gains and losses	(3,039,000)
Interest cost	178,000
	<u>3,757,000</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,757,000</u>

The defined benefit obligations arise from plans which are wholly or partly funded.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 15 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

Movements in the fair value of plan assets:

	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>
Fair value of assets at 1 April 2022	6,299,000
Interest income	173,000
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest)	(766,000)
Benefits paid	(71,000)
Contributions by scheme members	45,000
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	5,680,000
	<hr/> <hr/>

The fair value of plan assets at the reporting period end was as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Equity instruments	2,727,000	2,645,000
Debt instruments	2,045,000	2,583,000
Property	738,000	693,000
Cash	170,000	378,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,680,000	6,299,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds							
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2022	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Numismatic	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Geoblitz	1,111	-	-	-	1,111	-	-	1,111
Ready to borrow	7,599	-	(1,128)	-	6,471	(1,128)	-	5,343
Contemporary Arts	-	28,828	(50,721)	21,893	-	-	-	-
Weston Loan Programme	1,283	-	-	-	1,283	-	-	1,283
Colonel Edelsten Bequest	21,478	47,683	(4,918)	-	64,243	(6,668)	-	57,575
Meeting Point	6,500	-	-	-	6,500	-	-	6,500
Peter Rogerson Bequest	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	(1,100)	-	8,900
Local Growth Fund	328	9,039	(6,117)	-	3,250	(3,467)	217	-
	<u>49,799</u>	<u>85,550</u>	<u>(62,884)</u>	<u>21,893</u>	<u>94,358</u>	<u>(12,363)</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>82,212</u>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

**Numismatic** - £1,500 was received from the Northwest Museum Development Fund to improve care of and accessibility to our Numismatic collection.

**Geoblltz** - This grant via Leeds Museums is to develop and/or promote engagement with the Geology collection at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery.

**Ready to Borrow** - This grant from ACE is to enable Culture Warrington to buy equipment that provides a suitable and stable environment so that we are able to borrow paintings from National Museums.

**Contemporary Arts** - This is funding from ACE and Warrington Borough Council to fund the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival 2017-18.

**Weston Loan Programme** - This grant is to cover costs relating to borrowing three paintings from National Museums Liverpool, including conservation work, transport, School of Art activity programme of artist workshops and seminars, exhibition guides, additional Front of House staff. This programme ran from May to December 2018.

**Colonel Edelsten Bequest** - This grant from the Colonel Edelsten Bequest is to fund an upgrade of equipment to improve the experience for users of Culture Warrington.

**Meeting Point** - This funding from Arts and Heritage is to enable Culture Warrington to work with and commission a local artist to produce a piece of contemporary art, and to explore showing contemporary art within a heritage context. The commissioned piece formed part of the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival for 2019.

**Peter Rogerson Bequest** - This is legacy funding from the estate of local history librarian, Peter Rogerson, to be invested in developing the Charity's Archive Service.

**Local Growth Fund** - this funding is provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership to make the existing Warrington Museum & Library building and the network of community-based libraries into hubs for the delivery of digital programmes and workshops for coding clubs, schools, local businesses and digital creatives in the community.

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 17 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2022	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Car park fund	14,093	618	14,711	741	15,452
	<u>14,093</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>14,711</u>	<u>741</u>	<u>15,452</u>

The car park fund represents contributions to car parking by staff which the trustees have agreed to set aside to cover any future repair costs.

#### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2023	Restricted 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted 2022	Restricted 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	58,541	62,918	121,459	38,159	73,963	112,122
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,173,253	19,294	1,192,547	1,240,494	20,395	1,260,889
Provisions and pensions	1,923,000	-	1,923,000	(15,000)	-	(15,000)
	<u>3,154,794</u>	<u>82,212</u>	<u>3,237,006</u>	<u>1,263,653</u>	<u>94,358</u>	<u>1,358,011</u>

#### 19 Operating lease commitments

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	-	3,662
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,662</u>

#### 20 Related party transactions

During the current and prior year Culture Warrington utilised the key management personnel and resources of Livewire (Warrington) CIC a company registered in England and Wales, company number 07972958. A recharge is incurred from Livewire (Warrington) CIC for the use of these resources.

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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<b>21</b>	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Surplus for the year	(394,747)	225,121
	Adjustments for:		
	Finance lease interest	-	-
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(9,995)	(206)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	24,697	21,902
	Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	335,742	335,000
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase) in stocks	(7,445)	(9,210)
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	54,383	(36,415)
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	107,519	(25,678)
	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>110,154</b>	<b>510,514</b>

<b>22</b>	<b>Analysis of changes in net funds</b>		
	The charity had no debt during the year.		

**CULTURE WARRINGTON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1151203

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number 1151203

Company registration number 07974406 (England and Wales)

**CULTURE WARRINGTON**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	E L Hutchinson A F Appleton-Mitchell M T Corfield M Banner L M Harrison D C Simons R K Welsh J L Wilkie
<b>Charity number</b>	1151203
<b>Company number</b>	07974406
<b>Registered office</b>	Pyramid Arts Centre Palmyra Square South Warrington Cheshire WA1 1BL
<b>Auditor</b>	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 5RH
<b>Bankers</b>	National Westminster Bank plc 23 Sankey Street Warrington Cheshire WA1 1XG
<b>Solicitors</b>	Mills & Reeve LLP 8th Floor 1 New York Street Manchester M1 4AD

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CONTENTS

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	<b>Page</b>
Chairman's statement	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 11
Independent auditor's report	12 - 15
Statement of financial activities	16
Balance sheet	17
Statement of cash flows	18
Notes to the financial statements	19 - 34

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CHAIR'S STATEMENT

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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I am delighted to present the 2021/22 Annual Report for Culture Warrington. The covid-19 pandemic has meant last year continued to be challenging. As I look back over 2021/22, I am grateful for what Culture Warrington has been able to achieve as part of the Charity's recovery. Our passionate and committed team continued to navigate the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic, working tirelessly to encourage Warrington residents to engage with, and participate in, arts and culture both in our venues and through our outreach and digital offers. Their efforts have led to the Charity closing the year in a stable financial position.

From 17 May 2021 we welcomed visitors back into our venues, working within Government guidelines and advice from sector leads to ensure all our customers could safely access our services. Despite the challenges of delivering cultural programmes during this period of recovery, we saw a total of 131,220 people participate in our events during 2021/22. This is a great achievement and credit to the commitment of the team at Culture Warrington.

Following further lifting of restrictions our Events Team worked with promoters to deliver a rescheduled programme of events at Pyramid and Parr Hall. This saw the venues host an intense events programme from Autumn through to Winter 2021 as the team worked tirelessly to reschedule events that were disrupted during the covid-19 closures and to bring live performances back to the people of Warrington. Our recovery programme saw 52,781 people attend events at Parr Hall and Pyramid during October to March 2022; comparable with the 57,675 participants attending events during the full year in 2019/20, pre-covid.

On 28 May 2021 Warrington Museum and Art Gallery and Archives service decanted to a temporary pop-up site situated within the heart of the town's main shopping centre as essential building work commenced on the Museum's roof. Although a reduced offer in terms of our collections, this was a great opportunity to introduce new audiences to our Museum offer. A customer survey at the pop-up unit was undertaken throughout October to November where the team engaged with users and non-users to obtain their views on the offer at Museum Street. The outcome of the survey's findings will be used to inform the future vision for the site.

In March 2022 Culture Warrington presented Luke Jerram's Gaia at the Parr Hall. The installation was made possible thanks to the Welcome Back Fund with support from Warrington Borough Council and Warrington BID (Business Improvement District). Building on the Museum of the Moon, Gaia's five day programme included something for everyone of every age to enjoy. It was a whole team approach starting with our Cultural Team successfully application for Culture Warrington to host Gaia, to the Events Team supporting the installation, and the Education Team delivering a programme of educational workshops as part of the wider programme. Gaia attracted 8,277 visitors during its time at Parr Hall.

Through the Charity's outreach and engagement programme the team continued to provide advice and guidance to local artists. Through our network of partners the team create opportunities for local artists to exhibit their work, not just in our venues but through partner venues across the Borough. Castlefield Gallery is one of our key partners and their New Art Spaces create opportunities for Culture Warrington to work with local artists to provide advice and guidance; naturally forming a creative hub for artist to share their creative ideas and provide a platform for them to showcase experimental and large-scale creative work. The location is an integral part of our exhibitions programme. Space for Nine installation in January 2022 was a perfect example of the success of the partnership with the artists stating that having such a building and the support of Culture Warrington gives them an opportunity to develop their art and subsequently their artistic career.

As ever, but especially this year, I am extremely thankful to our many dedicated customers, funders, partners and Patrons, whose support in what has continued to be a difficult year of recovery for everyone, has enabled us to achieve our ambition to deliver a programme of high quality, cultural events for the Town.

I am grateful to the Charity's Trustees who freely give up their valuable time to offer their expertise in support of the Charity's work and continue to lend their valuable voices in support of Culture Warrington's work.

I am proud that we again have managed to adapt to the continuously challenging circumstances, and were able to bring an exciting selection of cultural events throughout the year. This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our extraordinary team of staff and volunteers.

# **CULTURE WARRINGTON**

## **CHAIR'S STATEMENT**

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022***

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We look forward to our venues reopening and providing a warm welcome to all our visitors and I, like so many, cannot wait to enjoy a live performance once more. The future of Culture Warrington is incredibly exciting and we will emerge more vibrant than ever.

**M Banner**

Chair

Dated: 22 November 2022

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022*

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The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

#### **Public benefit**

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

#### **Objectives and activities**

The objectives of the charity, as set out in the Articles of Association are:

- To advance education of and promote the arts, culture, heritage and science, in particular through providing and maintaining a museum, art gallery and concert hall;
- To promote community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the playing of amateur sport;
- The provision of or assistance in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare such facilities being provided to the public at large save that special facilities may be provided to persons who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social or economic circumstances may have need of special facilities and services.

Culture Warrington was formed in May 2012 as the lead organisation to deliver Arts, Heritage and Events in Warrington, and encompasses three venues, Pyramid, Parr Hall and Warrington Museum & Art Gallery. As well as operating these venues Culture Warrington programmes a wide range of events and festivals.

Culture Warrington operates the Museum, Pyramid and Parr Hall on 25 year leases from Warrington Borough Council at a peppercorn rent as part of the management agreement to deliver services. It is impractical to assign a separate rental value to the buildings.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### Highlights of our work

On the back of the pandemic and the re-opening of our venues, 2021/22 saw the team at Culture Warrington work to recover our cultural programmes for our audiences. Since 17 May 2021 the team have worked hard to deliver a programme of events in line with Government restrictions and despite the challenges this brought, 2021/22 has been a great success.

#### Pyramid and Parr Hall

As Culture Warrington's main income generator, our events programme at Pyramid and Parr Hall played a key role in the Charity's recovery plan. During 2020/21, Culture Warrington worked with national promoters and agents to re-programme those events that had been disrupted due to the pandemic. This saw the charity present an exciting and varied programme that included:

- Performances by comedians such as Jimmy Carr, Jason Manford, Dave Spikey, Katherine Ryan, John Bishop, Sarah Millican, Omid Djalili, Paul Chowdhry
- Shows by Fireman Sam, Circus of Horrors, Vibe Dance, Friends the Musical Parody, Menopause the Musical 2, The Smeds and The Smoos
- Musical entertainment from Scouting for Girls, Starsailor, Beth Hart, Rob Brydon, ELO, Luther, Magic of Motown, Suggs, The Stranglers, Sophie Ellis Bextor, Shed 7, Illegal Eagles and former Led Zeppelin front man Robert Plant and his new band Saving Grace
- An Audience with John Lydon, Michael Parkinson, Legends of Darts. Amanda Owen, Jason Fox and Shaun Ryder

This year's programme also included Parr Hall:

- Being used as a venue to shoot a music video for the band Captives
- Hosting two intimate shows for the Script to celebrate the launch of their new album
- Hosting the UK's biggest and best "Sounds Familiar Music Quiz"
- Being used by DJ Tony Blackburn to deliver a 60's inspired DJ set to an audience of 600

Parr Hall played host to Luke Jerram's touring artwork Gaia from Sunday 6 March to Thursday 10 March. Gaia was presented in Warrington as part of the Welcome Back Festival and to kick start a town centre environmental campaign: Our Warrington, Our World. The five day programme included 11 Educational workshops, 6 community private views including Wolfprint (SEND), Homestart and Sandy Lane Nursery; a dance workshop by Mature Movers (Over 60's dance group), drawing class and Yoga. The highlight of the programme was the contemporary dance performance 'Stronger Together' which saw community, student and professional dancers develop and perform a bespoke choreography themed around the environment and the impact of climate change which was performed underneath Gaia. The public were able to access Gaia for free during the installation and Gaia attracted 8,277 visitors.

Following the lifting of Government restrictions, Culture Warrington continued to offer a programme of weekly classes for community activities in the Pyramid. Classes included: community choir, commercial dance, youth theatre, Zumba Gold for those over 50 and children's ballet.

Pyramid Basement bar: Pyramid basement bar is a small scale performance space developed for grass roots musicians and artists. The first performance took place on 26 February 2022, headlined by local band The Twenty Two. The event sold out and was deemed a great success from both performers and audience members. Moving forward this space will provide performance opportunities for emerging artists to showcase their music in an appropriately sized venue.

September 2021 saw the unveiling of the Viola Beach memorial plaque outside the Parr Hall. A joint event between Culture Warrington and Warrington Borough Council the memorial commemorated the 4 local band members and their manager who were tragically killed in Sweden in 2016.

#### Warrington Museum and Art Gallery (WMAG)

There was a period of change at WMAG during 2021/22 as essential work commenced on the roof of WMAG requiring the Grade II listed building to be closed to public whilst the work was undertaken. This led to an opportunity for Culture Warrington to trial a temporary, pop-up offer located in the heart of the Town's shopping precinct.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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On 28 May the pop-up museum, gallery and archive service opened in Golden Square. The pop up presented a diverse selection of the museum and gallery collections with a new section of artwork from Warrington based artists some of which was for sale. Culture Warrington's Heritage & Archives Services ran the search room through a booking service and introduced the Object Enquiry service at the pop-up from October 2021.

Despite being decamped, September 2021 saw Culture Warrington's Heritage team continue to participate in the Town's Heritage Open Days. The team hosted a range of activities focused on the festivals theme, Edible England, at the temporary Pop-Up Museum. Events including an interactive drama-history session, "A Handy Guide to Survive the Stone Age" by Imagining History, a talk by the Collections Team on items from the museum's collections that teach us about what people ate and drank in the past and a presentation of food based items from our Archive collection from ration books to recipe books.

#### Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival (WCAF21)

The theme for WCAF21 focused on Warrington itself: supporting Warrington's creatives by presenting the work of local artists in a variety of the town's venues. As a result the festival presented a diverse programme which included dance, theatre, film and visual art in external locations such as The Parris Bank and New Art Spaces Warrington.

Highlights from WCAF2021 included:

- Parr De Trois; a triple bill of commissioned choreography by Warrington based choreographers performed within The Parris Bank.
- I Used To Be by Julia Griffin
- Short Supply presents: Slap-Bang
- Students from Warrington Vale Royal college worked with dance and digital company Tuck Shop Dance Theatre to create and perform new work as a curtain raiser as part of the performance of Neverland: Our Story in Pixels.
- Tina Ramos Ekongo used the pop-up studio on the Pyramid's atrium to create new work for her debut solo exhibition 'Maudó', as part of WCAF and Black History Month.
- Free studio space was offered to a number of artists to rehearse and create new work including Lauren Tucker and Tuckshop Dance Theatre as they created new work for WCAF2021.
- Neverland: Our Story in Pixels by Tuckshop Dance Theatre
- The Social by Not Too Tame
- Ciné Hustle
- Identities by Rae Bell
- Company Carpi contemporary dance classes

In total WCAF21 supported and celebrated 69 artists (31 based in Warrington) through commissions, performance platforms, presentations, in kind rehearsal space, research & development opportunities, match funding, marketing support, funding support, workshops and staff support.

#### Education Programme

Due to the roof works at WMAG Culture Warrington's education programme was delivered primarily from Pyramid and through a programme of outreach workshops. The team commissioned Theatre Company Community objectives to create a bespoke interactive performance based on Warrington's history which was performed in Warrington Primary schools.

Culture Warrington's Education team were awarded 2 grants by Museum Development North West (MDNW) from the Green Grants fund. The fund is aimed at supporting museums to accelerate their action against climate change. Culture Warrington was awarded a grant for £1,500 and second for £6,560 to support the team to create and build a rooftop garden alongside develop school sessions on Golden Square car park.

#### Outreach

As a cultural Charity a key part of our offer is to develop opportunities for community engagement across the town and offer cultural experiences for all ages and abilities. Our aim is to make culture more accessible by providing activities across the town. To achieve this we 2021/22 saw the team continue to develop our outreach offer.

The team supported partners at Open Eye Gallery and Waterside arts to install, promote and manage a graduate photography exhibition in New Art Spaces (NAS). 20 graduates from throughout the North West exhibited their work Castlefield Gallery New Art Spaces from May-July 2021.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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Culture Warrington commissioned Ludovico studios to produce a bespoke comedy sketch presented as part of the charity's digital programme titled "The Big Walk". The commission saw local actors write, rehearse and perform the sketch which was filmed to make look like a zoom meeting. The sketch was well received on social media.

In partnership with Curious Minds, Culture Warrington delivered a 4 week Bubble-Up summer programme, funded a part of the Governments Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Bubble-up saw children on free school meals enjoyed a diverse programme of visual and performing arts at Pyramid Arts Centre. The programme also created paid opportunities for local artists and opportunities for emerging artists to develop their skills and confidence in engaging children and young people in creative arts through designing and delivering workshops as part of the programme.

Abandon Normal Devices (AND) festival 2021 docked at Warrington's Latchford Locks in July with an immersive audio visual installation on board the Daniel Adamson plus online content and bespoke film featuring Fiddlers Ferry.

At No.25 was Culture Warrington's artist led Christmas installation in Golden Square which ran throughout December. 3 artists, 21 volunteers, community groups and students contributed towards the visual and audio elements of the installation which captured the magic of Christmas morning. The window was also animated by Culture Warrington's very own Sugar Plum Fairy 'Candy' who engaged with passing customers.

October saw Culture Warrington re-introduce our volunteer-led helpdesk sessions and talks to community groups by Culture Warrington's Archives Officer.

#### A year of Exhibitions: Exhibition Highlights

During 2021/22 Culture Warrington hosted 13 exhibitions. Highlights from Culture Warrington's exhibition programme includes:

- Rivers of the World (June) Pyramid Arts Centre

In partnership with Accent Music Education Hub the Rivers of the World exhibition was installed at the Pyramid in June 2021 with a supporting film to follow. The exhibition is a two-year programme that involves the pupils from 6 primary and 6 secondary schools in Warrington learning about their local river in the first year, learning about a river in another country, Ethiopia, in the second. The project encourages young people to explore and reflect on local and global issues, giving them the experience to build the skills they need for life and work in a global society.

- Warrington Youth Voices and Sandy Lane Nursery (July) Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub
- You, Me and Cold War Steve: The International Exhibition of the People 2021 (1 to 22 October 2021) Pyramid Arts Centre

Culture Warrington supported the installation of the first (professional) exhibition of 2021 at the Pyramid in October with nationally renowned Cold War Steve. The exhibition focused on the UK response to the Covid-19 pandemic and was supported by a display of work by local comic artist Ste Kilb, who is better known by his pseudonym Waspdodger.

- Bubble Up exhibition (October 2021) WMAG Pop-up
- Tina Ramos Ekongo 'Maudó'
- Various Artists: The Wire Works (16 October to 20 November 2021) Old Fish Market

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Wire Works exhibition was a project led by Warrington Borough Council in partnership with Culture Warrington and was designed to unearth, discover and celebrate Warrington's industrial wire heritage through oral histories, creative workshops, and local events. Wire Works was an interactive exhibition outlining the history of Warrington's wire industry through a blend of sculpture, film, dance, poetry and real-life accounts of what it was like to work in the wire industry.

- Warrington & Vale Royal College (WVRC) Students: I Used To Be (November 2021) New Art Spaces
- Various Artists: Slap- Bang! (December 2021) New Art Spaces

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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In partnership with Short Supply Slap Bang! Was a pop-up exhibition featuring 20 early-career artist which focused on Warrington being located between two cultural hubs, Manchester and Liverpool. The exhibition told the story of how people living and working outside of city centres were surviving some of the harshest conditions to affect artist in recent memory.

- Various Artists: At Space for Nine (January 2022) New Art Spaces

Artists Ben Ashford, Jack Dickinson, Tina Ramos Ekongo, Tony Green, Julia Griffin, Sarah Harris, Enya Koster and Steve Sutton presented a diverse range of work including drawing, painting, print, sculpture and photography as well as three-dimensional and multimedia installations throughout January.

- Various Artists: The Art of Protest – The Story of Hongkongers (3-27 February 2022) New Art Spaces

Funded by Arts Council England and curated by Mei Yuk Wong and Ian Vines the exhibition was inspired by the story of Hongkongers, and how they fight for freedom in their homeland.

- Cameron Brown: In The Particular (4 February-8 April 2022) Pyramid Arts Centre

Cameron Brown's first solo exhibition is a collection of portrait. Brown took inspiration for his exhibition from how we inhabit our surroundings. By sharing these personal moments with the view he is prompting them to reflect on their own relationships and experiences.

- Tina Ramos Ekongo: Black Queens (March 2022) Pyramid Arts Centre.

#### Our Achievements

Number of customers who participated in Culture Warrington activities in the last 12 months – 131,220

The number of people who chose to visit the Parr Hall 2021/22 – 54,108

The number of people who participated in activities at Pyramid Arts Centre– 9,201

Number of people engaged in Culture Warrington's outreach and engagement activities – 12,583

Number of people visited pop-up Warrington Museum and Art Gallery – 44,334

Number of people visiting Pyramid Arts Centre and Parr Hall for some other reason – 2,267

Number of Archive Search Room visits– 570

Number of archive enquiries – 1,236

Number supported visits to the archive service – 2,177

Parr Hall hosted 118 events throughout 2021/22

Pyramid Arts Centre was hired 642 times during 2021/22 for programmed events classes

Number of volunteer hours supported by Culture Warrington during 2021/22 – 288.5

Number of staff employed by Culture Warrington – 59 (end of March 2022)

Number of formal education sessions delivered – 104

Number of people engaged in formal education sessions– 2,442

23 days training delivered to employees

£588,183 spend in the local economy

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### Looking forward

Culture Warrington continues to look at ways to inspire people and create opportunities for the residents of Warrington to access cultural activities. There is much to look forward to in 2022/23:

- Pyramid redevelopment plans. Funding has been secured from the Towns Fund to redevelop the Pyramid Arts Centre to provide more fit-for-purpose spaces for performances. We will be working on detailed plans on the building and programming.
- National Portfolio Organisation application. We have submitted a bid to be recognised and funded as a National Portfolio Organisation by Arts Council England. If we are successful then we will be able to build on the success of WCAF and deliver a wider contemporary arts festival with longer term certainty of funding.
- Future vision for WMAG. Following on from the consultation our future vision for WMAG will be finalised.
- Continuing to develop a blended-approach of online delivery alongside the face-to-face delivery to ensure our services are accessible to a new and different audience who can take part and benefit from the activities from our activities where they live.

#### Financial review

In the year ended 31 March 2022 Culture Warrington recorded a surplus of £225,121 (2021: £355,242), prior to actuarial gains from the pension scheme, from incoming resources of £3,032,571 (2021: £1,994,080).

After taking into account the actuarial gains there was an overall increase in funds of £1,206,121 to £1,358,011 as at 31 March 2022.

The cash position remains at a healthy level with cash levels being at £2,089,588 as at 31 March 2022 (£1,599,445 at 31 March 2021).

Our work to reschedule events during the covid-19 closure period enabled us to recover activity quickly once restrictions on events were lifted. As a result we were able to deliver a full programme over a short period and deliver a surplus to invest in future programme delivery. The strong financial position at the end of the financial year puts the charity in a stable financial position to withstand the financial shocks being felt in 2022/23 as inflation increases our operating costs significantly.

#### Reserves policy

The purpose of the reserves policy for Culture Warrington is to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations of the charity. The charity's unrestricted reserves are intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in costs, significant unbudgeted costs, or unanticipated loss in income or funding. The unrestricted reserves may also be used for investment in infrastructure. The unrestricted reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds but may be used to implement actions to deal with the impact of such a loss.

The target minimum unrestricted reserve (excluding reserves relating to the pension scheme) is equal to one month's average operating costs – currently this would equate to £200,000 – and the trustees will seek to maintain reserves at this level. The Trustees will balance the growth in unrestricted reserves to the target level with investment into projects which extend the reach of the cultural offer in Warrington by splitting any annual surpluses equally between these two objectives.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### Structure, governance and management

Culture Warrington is a charitable company with Articles of Association and governed by a Board of Trustees. Culture Warrington is constituted as a limited company by guarantee without share capital.

The trustees are directly elected by the Trust. Culture Warrington agreed with Warrington Borough Council that the Council is entitled to nominate two observers.

The Board of Trustees has met previously met formally four times a year but has met six times during the year to monitor the situation closely as we emerged from the covid-19 pandemic.

The Senior Management Team, comprising the Managing Director, Finance Director, Health and Wellbeing Director, and People Performance and Resources Director, attend all Board meetings.

The Managing Director, Finance Director, Health and Wellbeing Director, and People Performance and Resources Director are employed by LiveWire (Warrington) CIC, and a management support services contract is in place detailing the areas of provision Culture Warrington receives from LiveWire (Warrington) CIC. One trustee is currently a member of both Warrington Cultural Trust and LiveWire (Warrington) CIC Boards.

Each new trustee attends an induction day held by the Senior Management Team. Trustees are presented with a pack of information about Culture Warrington and their roles and responsibilities as a trustee; additional training is provided if required.

During the year the Trust largely suspended the operation of subcommittees of the Board, with all business being carried out by the Board, although the Finance Audit and Risk Subcommittee met once during the year for a detailed review of the strategic risks affecting the charity. The Trustees intend to review the operation of subcommittees (Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, Strategic Planning and Performance Committee, Human Resource and Remuneration Committee, and Governance and Nominations Committee) now that activities have returned to normal following the covid-19 pandemic.

#### Risk management

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. Business cases for new investment and activity are reviewed and approved by the Senior Management Team and the risk element plays a key part in the final decision. A strategic risk register is also in place and is reviewed by the Board on a quarterly basis. It identifies those risks, and recognises actions and responsibilities for mitigating them. The risk management process is on-going and reviewed regularly at all levels throughout the organisation and reported to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

#### Going concern

The charity had been sustained through closures during 2020 and 2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic by the continued support of our commissioners, Warrington Borough Council, and by grants from Arts Council England. Through the use of the furlough scheme we were able to maintain most of our staffing capacity and were able to re-open once restrictions were lifted. After re-opening the charity was able to host a packed programme of events that had been rescheduled from the previous year and build its reserves.

The increase in energy prices, and inflation generally, will have an impact on our ability to deliver a sustainable cultural programme. The directors have considered the effect on the financial position of the charity and in view of the current financial position, and the financial support available, the directors consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

E L Hutchinson	
A F Appleton-Mitchell	
A Bucci	(Resigned 22 March 2022)
M T Corfield	
M Banner	
L M Harrison	
A Proctor	(Resigned 25 October 2021)
D C Simons	
R K Welsh	
C Wilcock	(Resigned 17 October 2021)
J L Wilkie	

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

As part of the arrangements with Warrington Borough Council, the Council nominated two observers that attend Board meetings. The Council observers during the year were Councillor M McLaughlin and Councillor Claire Lloyd-Fitzgerald.

#### Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Culture Warrington for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

# **CULTURE WARRINGTON**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022***

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### **Auditor**

Following the transfer of the business of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP to Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited on 15 June 2022, and having expressed a willingness to continue in office, a resolution for the appointment of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

### **Disclosure of information to auditor**

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

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

### **M Banner**

Trustee

Dated: 22 November 2022

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Culture Warrington (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

#### Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

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

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities**

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the charity's accounting policy for revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included the Data Protection Regulations.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Audit response to risks identified**

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

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

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

#### **Use of our report**

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

**Philip Griffiths (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

22 November 2022

**Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

3rd Floor  
5 Temple Square  
Temple Street  
Liverpool  
Merseyside  
L2 5RH

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
	Notes						
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	312,593	-	312,593	566,952	-	566,952
Charitable activities	4	2,651,223	85,549	2,736,772	1,360,456	51,976	1,412,432
Investments	5	206	-	206	14,696	-	14,696
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,964,022</b>	<b>85,549</b>	<b>3,049,571</b>	<b>1,942,104</b>	<b>51,976</b>	<b>1,994,080</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	6	2,761,567	62,883	2,824,450	1,581,144	57,694	1,638,838
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>		<b>202,455</b>	<b>22,666</b>	<b>225,121</b>	<b>360,960</b>	<b>(5,718)</b>	<b>355,242</b>
Gross transfers between funds		(21,893)	21,893	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income for the year/ Net incoming resources</b>		<b>180,562</b>	<b>44,559</b>	<b>225,121</b>	<b>360,960</b>	<b>(5,718)</b>	<b>355,242</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>							
Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension schemes		981,000	-	981,000	(1,156,000)	-	(1,156,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>1,161,562</b>	<b>44,559</b>	<b>1,206,121</b>	<b>(795,040)</b>	<b>(5,718)</b>	<b>(800,758)</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		102,091	49,799	151,890	897,131	55,517	952,648
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2022</b>		<b>1,263,653</b>	<b>94,358</b>	<b>1,358,011</b>	<b>102,091</b>	<b>49,799</b>	<b>151,890</b>

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	10		112,122		113,446
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	11	10,269		1,059	
Debtors	12	171,505		135,091	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,089,588		1,599,445	
			<u>2,271,362</u>		<u>1,735,595</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(1,010,473)</u>		<u>(1,036,151)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,260,889</u>		<u>699,444</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>1,373,011</u>		<u>812,890</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			1,373,011		812,890
<b>Defined benefit pension liability</b>	14		<u>(15,000)</u>		<u>(661,000)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>1,358,011</u>		<u>151,890</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	15		94,358		49,799
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	16	14,711		14,093	
General unrestricted funds		1,263,942		748,998	
Pension reserve		<u>(15,000)</u>		<u>(661,000)</u>	
			<u>1,263,653</u>		<u>102,091</u>
			<u>1,358,011</u>		<u>151,890</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 22 November 2022

M Banner  
Trustee

Company Registration No. 07974406

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	20		510,514		610,987
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(20,577)		(54,009)	
Interest received		206		696	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(20,371)		(53,313)
Finance lease interest		-		(899)	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		(899)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			490,143		556,775
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,599,445		1,042,670
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>2,089,588</u>		<u>1,599,445</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

Culture Warrington is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Pyramid Arts Centre, Palmyra Square South, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1BL.

##### 1.1 Accounting convention

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### 1.2 Going concern

In view of the current financial position, the funding support available, and the continued support of our commissioners, Warrington Borough Council, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

##### 1.3 Charitable funds

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

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

##### 1.4 Income

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

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

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

##### 1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under heading that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been included in support costs and allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

##### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Plant and equipment	10% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	20% on cost
Computer equipment	20% on cost

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

##### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

##### 1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

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

##### 1.9 Cash and 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. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

##### 1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### ***Impairment of financial assets***

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

##### ***Derecognition of financial assets***

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

##### ***Basic financial liabilities***

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### ***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.11 Employee benefits

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

#### 1.12 Retirement benefits

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

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

#### 3 Donations and legacies

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	<b>2022</b>	2021
	<b>£</b>	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grants	119,203	389,980
Other Covid-19 support grants	193,390	176,972
	<u>312,593</u>	<u>566,952</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### 4 Charitable activities

	Cultural engagement £	Museum £	Venue & events management £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Museum and Art gallery	1,055	635	(75)	1,615	1,086
Pyramid and Parr hall	2,870	-	1,097,789	1,100,659	18,365
Facility hire	1,887	-	154,294	156,181	14,917
Culture engagement	19,747	540	6,686	26,973	7,248
Commissions	123,659	-	4,261	127,920	57,976
Education	14,409	-	-	14,409	3,825
Management fee	1,309,015	-	-	1,309,015	1,309,015
	<u>1,472,642</u>	<u>1,175</u>	<u>1,262,955</u>	<u>2,736,772</u>	<u>1,412,432</u>
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	1,399,635	1,133	1,250,455	2,651,223	
Restricted funds	73,007	42	12,500	85,549	
	<u>1,472,642</u>	<u>1,175</u>	<u>1,262,955</u>	<u>2,736,772</u>	
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2021</b>					
Unrestricted funds	1,318,383	1,339	40,734		1,360,456
Restricted funds	51,976	-	-		51,976
	<u>1,370,359</u>	<u>1,339</u>	<u>40,734</u>		<u>1,412,432</u>

#### 5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Deposit account interest	206	696
Net interest on defined benefit pension scheme	-	14,000
	<u>206</u>	<u>14,696</u>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### 6 Charitable activities

	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2022	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2021
	2022	2022	2022		2021	2021	2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	151,754	104,569	263,230	519,553	153,757	98,372	267,499	519,628
Depreciation and impairment	3,959	1,559	15,800	21,318	3,959	1,559	13,752	19,270
Premises expenditure	614	432	325,826	326,872	8,689	-	123,051	131,740
Artists and event fees	88,511	759	545,180	634,450	32,767	5,084	14,940	52,791
Spectrix charges	-	-	19,066	19,066	-	-	8,405	8,405
Telephone and computer	-	-	6,869	6,869	10,664	-	3,162	13,826
Printing and stationery	695	-	139	834	552	-	-	552
Advertising	1,000	-	11	1,011	1,000	-	-	1,000
Sundries	2,133	95,530	8,109	105,772	264	93,579	1,836	95,679
Purchases and stocks	-	-	76,461	76,461	-	-	6,934	6,934
Legal costs	3,133	-	34,267	37,400	-	-	1,827	1,827
Motor, travel and entertainment	324	-	1,652	1,976	28	-	1,098	1,126
Equipment hire	285	-	12,013	12,298	-	-	2,288	2,288
Interest	-	-	19,964	19,964	1	-	4,310	4,311
Carried forward	252,408	202,849	1,328,587	1,783,844	211,681	198,594	449,102	859,377

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 6 Charitable activities

(Continued)

	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2022	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2021
	2022	2022	2022		2021	2021	2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	252,408	202,849	1,328,587	1,783,844	211,681	198,594	449,102	859,377
Share of support costs (see note 7)	280,238	199,550	537,888	1,017,676	231,326	154,190	377,399	762,915
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	6,919	4,777	11,234	22,930	4,886	3,135	8,525	16,546
	<u>539,565</u>	<u>407,176</u>	<u>1,877,709</u>	<u>2,824,450</u>	<u>447,893</u>	<u>355,919</u>	<u>835,026</u>	<u>1,638,838</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>								
Unrestricted funds	484,834	407,176	1,869,557	2,761,567	404,643	355,919	820,582	1,581,144
Restricted funds	54,731	-	8,152	62,883	43,250	-	14,444	57,694
	<u>539,565</u>	<u>407,176</u>	<u>1,877,709</u>	<u>2,824,450</u>	<u>447,893</u>	<u>355,919</u>	<u>835,026</u>	<u>1,638,838</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	2021	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Staff costs	537,793	-	537,793	456,366	Time spent
Depreciation	584	-	584	584	
Advertising and literature	31,403	-	31,403	5,707	Charitable activity levels
Professional fees	181,176	-	181,176	178,915	Operational staff costs
Telephone and computer	64,292	-	64,292	47,792	Device numbers
Other central support costs	68,852	-	68,852	59,054	Operational staff costs
Irrecoverable VAT	116,576	-	116,576	14,497	Charitable activity levels
Net interest cost on defined benefit pension scheme	17,000	-	17,000	-	
Audit fees	-	8,146	8,146	7,723	Governance
Legal and professional	-	14,784	14,784	8,823	Governance
	<u>1,017,676</u>	<u>22,930</u>	<u>1,040,606</u>	<u>779,461</u>	
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	<u>1,017,676</u>	<u>22,930</u>	<u>1,040,606</u>	<u>779,461</u>	

### 8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### 9 Employees

##### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Management and administration	3	4
Operational team	53	56
	56	60
	56	60

##### Employment costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	668,015	726,728
Social security costs	47,397	44,266
Other pension costs	341,934	205,000
	1,057,346	975,994
	1,057,346	975,994

The members of the senior management team are employed by Livewire (Warrington) CIC.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

#### 10 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2021	130,586	24,076	68,125	222,787
Additions	14,354	6,223	-	20,577
	144,940	30,299	68,125	243,364
At 31 March 2022	144,940	30,299	68,125	243,364
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 1 April 2021	40,475	16,430	52,436	109,341
Depreciation charged in the year	14,494	3,180	4,227	21,901
	54,969	19,610	56,663	131,242
At 31 March 2022	54,969	19,610	56,663	131,242
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 March 2022	89,971	10,689	11,462	112,122
At 31 March 2021	90,112	7,646	15,688	113,446

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 11 Stocks

	2022	2021
	£	£
Raw materials and consumables	10,269	1,059

### 12 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	126,562	61,439
Prepayments and accrued income	44,943	73,652
	<u>171,505</u>	<u>135,091</u>

### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	27,534	52,158
Trade creditors	225,793	182,761
Other creditors	44,128	46,329
Accruals and deferred income	713,018	754,903
	<u>1,010,473</u>	<u>1,036,151</u>

### 14 Retirement benefit schemes

#### Defined benefit schemes

The charity's employees belong to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is managed by Cheshire Pension Fund. This is a multi-employer defined-benefit scheme.

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds.

The principal actuarial assumptions are as follows;

#### Key assumptions

	2022	2021
	%	%
Discount rate	2.75	2.05
Expected rate of increase of pensions in payment	3.15	2.8
Expected rate of salary increases	3.85	3.5

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

<b>14 Retirement benefit schemes</b>	<b>(Continued)</b>	
<i>Mortality assumptions</i>		
The assumed life expectations on retirement at age 65 are:		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>
Retiring today		
- Males	21.2	21.4
- Females	23.8	24.0
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.1	22.4
- Females	25.5	25.7
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Amounts recognised in the profit and loss account:		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current service cost	311,000	205,000
Net interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	17,000	(14,000)
Other costs and income	7,000	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total costs	335,000	191,000
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Amounts taken to other comprehensive income:		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Actual return on scheme assets	(426,000)	(868,000)
Less: calculated interest element	121,000	117,000
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Return on scheme assets excluding interest income	(305,000)	(751,000)
Actuarial changes related to obligations	(676,000)	1,907,000
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
The amounts included in the balance sheet arising from the charity's obligations in respect of defined benefit plans are as follows:		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Present value of defined benefit obligations	6,314,000	6,590,000
Fair value of plan assets	(6,299,000)	(5,929,000)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Deficit in scheme	15,000	661,000
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### 14 Retirement benefit schemes (Continued)

Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations:

	2022 £
Liabilities at 1 April 2021	6,590,000
Current service cost	311,000
Past service cost	7,000
Benefits paid	(93,000)
Contributions from scheme members	37,000
Actuarial gains and losses	(676,000)
Interest cost	138,000
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2022	6,314,000
	<hr/> <hr/>

The defined benefit obligations arise from plans which are wholly or partly funded.

Movements in the fair value of plan assets:

	2022 £
Fair value of assets at 1 April 2021	5,929,000
Interest income	121,000
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest)	305,000
Benefits paid	(93,000)
Contributions by scheme members	37,000
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2022	6,299,000
	<hr/> <hr/>

The fair value of plan assets at the reporting period end was as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Equity instruments	2,645,000	2,727,000
Debt instruments	2,583,000	2,372,000
Property	693,000	593,000
Cash	378,000	237,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,299,000	5,929,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### 15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds				Balance at 31 March 2022 £
	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	
Numismatic	1,500	-	-	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Geoblitz	1,111	-	-	1,111	-	-	-	1,111
Ready to borrow	8,727	-	(1,128)	7,599	-	(1,128)	-	6,471
Contemporary Arts	-	32,023	(32,023)	-	28,828	(50,721)	21,893	-
Weston Loan Programme	1,283	-	-	1,283	-	-	-	1,283
Colonel Edelsten Bequest	26,396	-	(4,918)	21,478	47,683	(4,918)	-	64,243
Meeting Point	6,500	-	-	6,500	-	-	-	6,500
Peter Rogerson Bequest	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Local Growth Fund	-	19,953	(19,625)	328	9,039	(6,117)	-	3,250
	<u>55,517</u>	<u>51,976</u>	<u>(57,694)</u>	<u>49,799</u>	<u>85,550</u>	<u>(62,884)</u>	<u>21,893</u>	<u>94,358</u>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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#### 15 Restricted funds

(Continued)

**Numismatic** - £1,500 was received from the Northwest Museum Development Fund to improve care of and accessibility to our Numismatic collection.

**SIF** – Future Proof Museums is a national project being developed by the AMA (Arts Marketing Association) funded by Arts Council England’s Museum Resilience grant. The programme is designed to enable museums to become more resilient organisations, exploring how to change, adapt, influence and remain relevant to an ever-changing external environment.

**Geoblitz** - This grant via Leeds Museums is to develop and/or promote engagement with the Geology collection at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery.

**Ready to Borrow** - This grant from ACE is to enable Culture Warrington to buy equipment that provides a suitable and stable environment so that we are able to borrow paintings from National Museums.

**Contemporary Arts** - This is funding from ACE and Warrington Borough Council to fund the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival 2017-18.

**Weston Loan Programme** - This grant is to cover costs relating to borrowing three paintings from National Museums Liverpool, including conservation work, transport, School of Art activity programme of artist workshops and seminars, exhibition guides, additional Front of House staff. This programme will run from May to December 2018.

**Colonel Edelsten Bequest**- This grant from the Colonel Edelsten Bequest is to fund an upgrade of equipment to improve the experience for users of Culture Warrington.

**Meeting Point** - This funding from Arts and Heritage is to enable Culture Warrington to work with and commission a local artist to produce a piece of contemporary art, and to explore showing contemporary art within a heritage context. The commissioned piece will form part of the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival for 2019.

**Peter Rogerson Bequest** - This is legacy funding from the estate of local history librarian, Peter Rogerson, to be invested in developing the Charity’s Archive Service.

**Local Growth Fund** - this funding is provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership to make the existing Warrington Museum & Library building and the network of community-based libraries into hubs for the delivery of digital programmes and workshops for coding clubs, schools, local businesses and digital creatives in the community.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### 16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Transfers £	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Car park fund	12,299	1,794	14,093	618	14,711
	<u>12,299</u>	<u>1,794</u>	<u>14,093</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>14,711</u>

The car park fund represents contributions to car parking by staff which the trustees have agreed to set aside to cover any future repair costs.

#### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted 2021 £	Restricted 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	38,159	73,963	112,122	84,932	28,514	113,446
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,240,494	20,395	1,260,889	678,159	21,285	699,444
Provisions and pensions	(15,000)	-	(15,000)	(661,000)	-	(661,000)
	<u>1,263,653</u>	<u>94,358</u>	<u>1,358,011</u>	<u>102,091</u>	<u>49,799</u>	<u>151,890</u>

#### 18 Operating lease commitments

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Within one year	3,662	-

#### 19 Related party transactions

During the current and prior year Culture Warrington utilises the key management personnel and resources of Livewire (Warrington) CIC a company registered in England and Wales, company number 07972958. A recharge is incurred from Livewire (Warrington) CIC for the use of these resources.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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<b>20</b>	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	225,121	355,242
	Adjustments for:		
	Finance lease interest	-	899
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(206)	(696)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	21,902	19,854
	Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	335,000	191,000
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(9,210)	6,688
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(36,415)	350,776
	(Decrease) in creditors	(25,678)	(312,776)
	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>510,514</b>	<b>610,987</b>

### 21 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

**CULTURE WARRINGTON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1151203

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# Accounts

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**Charity Registration No. 1151203**

**Company Registration No. 07974406 (England and Wales)**

**CULTURE WARRINGTON**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	E L Hutchinson A F Appleton-Mitchell A Bucci M T Corfield M Banner L M Harrison D C Simons R K Welsh J L Wilkie	(Appointed 25 February 2021)
<b>Charity number</b>	1151203	
<b>Company number</b>	07974406	
<b>Registered office</b>	Pyramid Arts Centre Palmyra Square South Warrington Cheshire WA1 1BL	
<b>Auditor</b>	Mitchell Charlesworth LLP Glebe Business Park Lunts Heath Road Widnes Cheshire WA8 5SQ	
<b>Bankers</b>	National Westminster Bank plc 23 Sankey Street Warrington Cheshire WA1 1XG	
<b>Solicitors</b>	Mills & Reeve LLP 8th Floor 1 New York Street Manchester M1 4AD	

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CONTENTS

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	<b>Page</b>
Chair's statement	1
Trustees' report	2 - 11
Independent auditor's report	12 - 15
Statement of financial activities	16
Balance sheet	17
Statement of cash flows	18
Notes to the financial statements	19 - 35

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## CHAIR'S STATEMENT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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This has been a year of significant disruption and upheaval. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on our work which provides cultural opportunities for the people of Warrington to enjoy and participate in. Despite our venues being closed for much of the year, we have done our very best to be there for the people of the town and there remains much to celebrate and to be proud of. Our mission is to ensure everyone has the opportunity to experience varied, high quality cultural and creative experiences – and that these are as accessible as possible. During national lockdown social media platforms became a key way for us to present our work, providing residents with access to cultural experiences and programmes; retaining the essence of what we do as a cultural Charity.

During the year we were fortunate to be awarded funding from Arts Council England's (ACE) Cultural Recovery Fund. This enabled us to further develop our digital platform for Warrington Museum and Art Gallery (WMAG) - alongside supporting two large commissions for two local Warrington artists. Additional funding from the National Trust and National Lottery Heritage Fund enabled Culture Warrington to appoint 10 smaller commissions for nine local artists to create new work based upon Warrington's heritage. This funding allowed our shielding communities' access to our Museum collections; linking with the physical and real experience.

One of the highlights of our year was celebrating the 125th birthday of Parr Hall, one of Warrington's iconic venues. Our initial plans for a big celebration were replaced with a digital campaign to mark the anniversary in a memorable way by reflecting back on the last 125 years. We reached out to people asking them to share with us their photos, videos, old tickets and personal memories of the best gigs and shows at Parr Hall from over the years. We also did a call out to local performers and artists to produce some videos wishing the venue a happy birthday. These were incorporated into a special online celebration - which included a series of videos demonstrating the wealth of entertainment history hosted at the venue and how much Parr Hall has meant to generations of Warringtonians.

Throughout the year, staff at Culture Warrington have continued to play their part in supporting our local community. Some staff have been maintaining our venues and online programmes whilst others have been furloughed. Our furlough staff have joined various community groups to support those shielding, vulnerable or facing hardship during the pandemic; providing over 380 volunteer hours in our local community. We hope you will share our pride in all the amazing work delivered by our brilliant team over the year.

The cultural and creative sectors have been one of the most affected sectors as a result of the pandemic. However, this has not diminished our ambition to ensure residents have access to the very best live entertainment and that their lives will be enriched by cultural opportunities.

Our recovery planning aims to develop innovative strategies to expand our cultural offer into Warrington's communities. Alongside this, there will be continued development and delivery of cultural activities at our existing venues. Together this will further build on our virtual presence in order to create new forms of cultural experiences. In addition, this will also allow us to re-examine our commercial approach to ensure we remain sustainable in these challenging times.

As we step forward, I would like to thank everyone who has supported Culture Warrington throughout 2020/21; our staff, my colleague board members, volunteers and partners and in particular Warrington Borough Council.

We look forward to our venues reopening and providing a warm welcome to all our visitors and I, like so many, cannot wait to enjoy a live performance once more. The future of Culture Warrington is incredibly exciting and we will emerge more vibrant than ever.



.....  
**M Banner**

Chair

Dated: 25 November 2021

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

#### Managing Director's Statement

Although the COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges it has provided us with an opportunity to deliver our programmes in a different way and expand our skill set.

In 2020/21 with our doors closed to the public for long periods during the year, with the majority of our staff furloughed and with limited scope to deliver our traditional services on our usual scale - we have innovated, we have experimented and we have delivered.

We have found new ways of engaging with audiences through our online programmes. To do this we further developed our partnerships with local groups such as Creative Remedies, Ludovico Studio and Not too Tame. Alongside our own program, this partnership working extended our digital offer to include virtual classes in music, photography and art; alongside theatre and drama performances such as the online mini-series "Ah, the classic online purchase fail!" and a series of monologues which were adaptations from material unearthed by our own Archives Team.

Whenever the national restrictions enabled it, a huge team effort was required to restore COVID-19 secure access to our buildings – ensuring the required new systems, processes and safety measures required were in place. The advice and support provided by sector leads throughout this period has been invaluable and our COVID-19 secure measures were endorsed by Culture Warrington being awarded the "We're Good To Go" kitemark by Visit Britain. This success could not have been achieved without the hard work of the teams at both venues.

The project team has continued to progress plans as part of the Pyramid Arts Centre capital re-development project. This project aims to diversify and improve the quality of Culture Warrington's offer in the town centre by transforming it into a high quality facility that is a visitor destination in its own right. Work with key partners will assist in building a new engagement programme that is representative of its community – one that is focused on participation and engagement, talent development and education and creative pathways. It's an exciting project which will provide a vibrant environment where our communities can experience excellence in the arts as well as creating a dynamic space for creatives to create new work across all art forms.

This year's report celebrates creative thinking. It shows how we have maintained a vibrant digital programme, identified new ways to inform and delight audiences through digital events which has extended the reach of our offer to new and existing audiences. The dedication and commitment shown by all the team at Culture Warrington is reflected throughout the report.

I am extremely grateful to everyone who has helped us get through this challenging year, I would especially like to thank our Board of Trustees whose support and advice has proved more valuable than ever this year despite the difficulties of not meeting in person.

Whilst for the most part, we have missed enjoying being together with friends and family at performances, classes, exhibitions and events, it has brought home how important these things are to us and how much we are looking forward to being back in our favourite venues very soon.

Emma Hutchinson (Managing Director)

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### Public benefit

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

#### Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity, as set out in the Articles of Association are:

- To advance education of and promote the arts, culture, heritage and science, in particular through providing and maintaining a museum, art gallery and concert hall;
- To promote community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the playing of amateur sport;
- The provision of or assistance in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare such facilities being provided to the public at large save that special facilities may be provided to persons who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social or economic circumstances may have need of special facilities and services.

Culture Warrington was formed in May 2012 as the lead organisation to deliver Arts, Heritage and Events in Warrington, and encompasses three venues, Pyramid, Parr Hall and Warrington Museum & Art Gallery. As well as operating these venues Culture Warrington programmes a range of events and festivals.

Culture Warrington operates the Museum, Pyramid and Parr Hall on 25 year leases from Warrington Borough Council at a peppercorn rent as part of the management agreement to deliver services. It is impractical to assign a separate rental value to the buildings.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### Highlights of our work

Throughout the pandemic and the closure of our venues we have worked to continue to deliver cultural programmes for our audiences online. When restrictions allowed us to reopen our venues to the public they were made COVID-19 secure in line with Government guidance and operated on reduced opening hours.

#### Pyramid Arts Centre and Parr Hall

Although Pyramid Arts Centre had to remain closed for large parts of the year, from 20th July the whole building hosted the Little Superstars Summer Club for children. This was a six-week club offering much needed childcare and activities for children throughout the summer holiday period and featured a programme of multi-sport, sessions and activities.

Pyramid Arts Centre reopened to the public from 7th September - with additional measures in place for our customers and staff. A reduced programme of classes and workshops were available including life drawing, ballet, yoga, creative remedies workshops and Ludovico acting class and commercial dance. Our opening plan has a strict cleaning regime in place and we operate at a reduced capacity to allow for the appropriate social distancing to be implemented.

From 31st October, as a result of additional tier 3 restrictions for Warrington, Pyramid was required to close its doors again until the New Year.

In line with the new vision for the Pyramid, when restrictions allowed, free studio hire of rooms at the venue was offered to local artists to support them to create, rehearse, test, and collaborate during COVID-19. Throughout 2020/21 we have offered free studio space to Warrington based visual artists to create new work, most recently Tina Ramos Ekongo used the space in preparation for her upcoming solo exhibition in the autumn.

Although all events due to take place at Parr Hall were cancelled, from December 2020 the hall was used weekly by the Coroners Court to hold Coroner Court sessions.

Throughout national lockdowns the team took the opportunity to make some technical improvements to Parr Hall including the installation of CAT6a and CAT5e cabling within the building. The cable installation will enable the team to send data to the various technical points throughout the venue and will be a great benefit to touring shows visiting Parr Hall.

#### Warrington Museum and Art Gallery (WMAG)

Our museum had to adapt swiftly to the changing situation in 2020/21. We introduced a one-way system throughout the building, frequent hand sanitising stations, Track and Trace station and COVID-19 safety signage. To ensure visitor numbers to the venue were managed safely we introduced a new online booking system allowing visitors to pre-book their visit in advance. Our COVID-19 safety measures were publicised with a video outlining what to expect when visiting WMAG. The video was shared on social media and in the local press, Warrington Guardian.

In June WMAG was awarded VisitBritain's kitemark "We're Good To Go". The kitemark is an industry standard and supporting mark that certifies services can demonstrate that they are adhering to the respective Government and public health guidance, have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment and check they have the required processes in place.

To mark the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, WMAG welcomed two local artists as they took part in 'Knitting for Victory'. This was commissioned by Warrington Borough Council as part of Warrington's Time Machine festival which celebrates the town's past, present and future. Over the summer the two artists, Marie Jones and designer Rosalie Wood, invited the Warrington community to design their own letterforms using a template inspired by the objects around them. These designs were then knitted live in WMAG gallery and incorporated into a celebratory banner displayed at WMAG.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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As part of the Time Machine festival WMAG hosted Steve Guinness' intricately crafted Lego replica of Warrington's iconic Golden Gates as part of the Heritage Open Days festival. The exhibition was supported by an online Q&A session with creator Steve and blogs by the museum team.

A fantastic impact on the Charity's online offer during 2020/21 was the launch of WMAG's new Digital Programme. Our museum posts presented a range of free cultural content. This included podcasts, classes, performances, '#OnThisDay' posts, '#MyLocalMuseums' posts and crafternoon activities. In addition, there were online exhibitions and online talks such as 'Friday art day' where the team presented a video showcasing their favourite pieces in the museum's collections. Our Digital Advent Calendar campaign featured WMAG's collections which were used to develop an interactive advent calendar. This was a great success - reaching 5,319 unique users and generating 1,842 engagements on Facebook over the month. Twitter received 24,292 impressions and 406 engagements.

A new exhibition at WMAG by international award-winning artist, Susan Stockwell, was installed in October. The exhibition explored the hidden stories behind the museum's eclectic and wide-ranging collections. The exhibition which was titled '*Hidden Histories, Untold Stories*' highlighted the museum's role as a cultural collector and storyteller; bringing to life some of the untold stories behind our 200,000 objects. Sadly, due to national lockdowns, we were forced to close Susan's exhibition early. However, we are delighted to confirm that her exhibition will return in 2022.

#### Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival

The ten-year anniversary of the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival (WCAF20) Open was celebrated in 2020. The exhibition invited applications from across the whole spectrum of contemporary arts to include sculpture, painting, print, collage, photography, installation, dance, spoken word, performance and film.

To encourage as many entries as possible from artist and collectives the boundary for submissions was extended to within a 60-mile radius of Warrington - reaching as far as Sheffield, Lancaster, Llandudno, and Wolverhampton. Application fees were waived to help support the creative community during the COVID-19 pandemic; as a result 441 submissions were received from throughout the North West.

The WCAF20 Open Exhibition was displayed at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery. Funding from ACE enabled us to commission local artist and past winner of the Open Exhibition, Marie Jones, to coordinate and guest curate this year's open competition. We commissioned Prism Studios and Ludovico Studios to create a film celebrating the 10th Open exhibition.

This year's winners reflect the diverse submissions as part of WCAF20;

- Tara Collect: Textiles artist submitted 3 textile banners linked to high street stores. Tara won the £1,000 cash prize
- Hope Strickland: Visual anthropologist submitted *Home Soon Come* a film that sits between past and present, with an emphasis on memory-placing through the people around us and what it means to find ourselves at home. Hope won the solo show in WCAF21 and £1,000 show fees
- Lauren Tucker: dance and digital artist submitted, *Neverland* a wonderfully imaginative performance piece. Lauren won a 2021 residency at Pyramid Arts Centre and *Neverland* will be presented as part of WCAF21

Innovative thinking meant the WCAF20 programme enjoyed another successful year - despite of COVID-19 restrictions. The team focused on a program of digital posts and despite the different approach the festival proved to be a huge success.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### Education Programme

Culture Warrington's Education Programme was refreshed and redeveloped throughout 2020/21 to support remote access to our collections by schools. A new hybrid programme was introduced including digital workshops for schools to use in the classroom, COVID-19 safe school visits to the Museum, 1-1 and small group culture clinic support for teachers, online teacher CPD and outreach sessions delivered in local schools.

#### Heritage & Archives Services

Culture Warrington's Heritage and Archives Team continued to champion the Charity's heritage offer across the Borough. As part of the national Heritage Open Days festival in September Culture Warrington produced a *Digital Town Centre Heritage Trail*. The new downloadable resource provided users with free access to historical information and photographs relating to some of the town's key heritage venues; allowing audiences to access Warrington's heritage remotely from any location with internet access.

In September WMAG's new mobile app was launched. This has enabled people to engage with our museum and its remarkable collections in new and exciting ways. The app uses technologies such as augmented reality to take users on an exciting journey through the full expanse of its galleries; from tales from the Triassic era to Warrington war stories and stunning exhibitions of both historic and contemporary art.

#### Community Enrichment / Outreach

As a cultural Charity a key part of our offer is to develop opportunities for community engagement across the town and offer cultural experiences for all ages and abilities. Our aim is to make culture more accessible by providing activities across the town. To achieve this we are continuing to develop our outreach offer.

It wouldn't be Christmas without our annual panto! With the pandemic restriction in place we commissioned local theatre company, Community Objectives, to produce a COVID-19 safe, 2 person pantomime titled '*Handsome and Dettol!*' The pantomime was offered free to Warrington schools throughout October to December and 54 shows were performed to over 1,890 primary school children.

As part of a project by Manchester's Castlefield Gallery our Cultural team engaged with "*School of the Damned*" on their exhibition titled '*Coming Soon*'. The team at Culture Warrington supported the art collective through consultation and installation of the exhibition in a former retail building in the town centre shopping precinct.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### Our Achievements

Number of customers who participated in Culture Warrington activities in the last 12 months – 16,283

The number of people who chose to visit the Parr Hall 2020/21 – 290

The number of people who participated in activities at Pyramid Arts Centre– 2,421

Number of people engaged in Culture Warrington's outreach and engagement activities – 5,000

Number of people visiting Warrington Museum and Art Gallery – 6,089

Number of Archive Search Room visits– 115

Number of archive enquiries – 411

Number of documents access in the archive service -1,126

Parr Hall hosted 20 hires throughout 2020/21

Pyramid Arts Centre was hired 38 times during 2020/21 for programmed events classes

Pyramid Arts Centre supported 75 community based class bookings

Number of volunteer hours during 2020/21 – 537

Number of staff employed by Culture Warrington – 69 (end of March 2021)

Number of volunteer hours Culture Warrington employees have worked in the local community - 383

Number of Twitter followers at the end of March 2021 – 22,009

Number of Facebook likes at the end of March 2021 – 19,419

Number of people engaged in formal education outreach sessions– 2,368

56 days training delivered to employees

£ 444,302 spend in the local economy

#### Looking forward

Culture Warrington is always looking at ways to inspire people and create opportunities for the residents of Warrington to access cultural activities. Here is a glimpse of our plans for 2021/22;

- We look forward to the reopening of all our venues and delivering our exciting autumn programme
- Essential building work on the museum roof will create an opportunity for us to trial a pop-up Museum and Library situated within the heart of the town's main shopping centre
- Our Education Team are developing a series of outreach workshop and downloadable website resources based on our museum collections to be available to Warrington schools
- Culture Warrington will be part of the 2021 Abandon Normal Devices (AND) festival
- Potential use of our venue as a location within a BBC sitcom

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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- Installation of our 10 public art commissions which were delayed due to COVID-19
- Delivery of an exciting WCAF21 programme
- Development of a design brief and business case to progress our vision to redevelop Pyramid Arts Centre

The team at Culture Warrington have exciting plans for 2021/22 and as we look forward to our programmes resuming our focus will be to use engagement in our cultural activities to help transform people's wellbeing and to reach out to new and wider audiences.

#### Financial review

In the year ended 31 March 2021 Culture Warrington recorded a surplus of £355,242 (2020: deficit of £76,828), prior to actuarial losses from the pension scheme, from incoming resources of £1,994,080 (2020: £2,904,614).

After taking into account the actuarial losses there was an overall reduction in funds of £800,758 to £151,890 as at 31 March 2021.

The cash position remains at a healthy level with cash levels being at £1,599,445 as at 31 March 2021 (£1,042,670 at 31 March 2020).

Although our venues have had to largely close to the public due to COVID-19 restrictions, the strong financial position at the start of the year, along with continued support from Warrington Borough Council, grants from Arts Council England, and national coronavirus financial support schemes have enabled the charity to remain financially stable. We have worked to reschedule events for when we are able to reopen and have a strong programme ready to deliver for the forthcoming year.

#### Reserves policy

The purpose of the reserves policy for Culture Warrington is to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations of the charity. The charity's unrestricted reserves are intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in costs, significant unbudgeted costs, or unanticipated loss in income or funding. The unrestricted reserves may also be used for investment in infrastructure. The unrestricted reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds but may be used to implement actions to deal with the impact of such a loss.

The target minimum unrestricted reserve (excluding reserves relating to the pension scheme) is equal to one month's average operating costs – currently this would equate to £200,000 – and the trustees will seek to maintain reserves at this level. The trustees will balance the growth in unrestricted reserves to the target level with investment into projects which extend the reach of the cultural offer in Warrington by splitting any annual surpluses equally between these two objectives.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### **Structure, governance and management**

Culture Warrington is a charitable company with Articles of Association and governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has previously met formally four times a year but has been meeting virtually on a monthly basis through the year to monitor the situation closely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Culture Warrington is constituted as a limited company by guarantee without share capital.

The trustees are directly elected by the Trust. Culture Warrington agreed with Warrington Borough Council that the Council is entitled to nominate two observers.

The Senior Management Team, comprising the Managing Director, Finance Director, Business Development Director, and People Performance and Resources Director, attend all Board meetings.

The Managing Director, Finance Director, Business Development Director, and People Performance and Resources Director are employed by LiveWire (Warrington) CIC, and a management support services contract is in place detailing the areas of provision Culture Warrington receives from LiveWire (Warrington) CIC. One trustee is currently a member of both Warrington Cultural Trust and LiveWire (Warrington) CIC Boards.

Each new trustee attends an induction day held by the Senior Management Team. Trustees are presented with a pack of information about Culture Warrington and their roles and responsibilities as a trustee; additional training is provided if required.

During the year the Trust suspended the operation of subcommittees of the Board, and all business was carried out by the Board. The Trust intends to review the operation of subcommittees (Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, Strategic Planning and Performance Committee, Human Resource and Remuneration Committee, and Governance and Nominations Committee) as operations return to normal following the pandemic.

#### **Risk management**

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. Business cases for new investment and activity are reviewed and approved by the Senior Management Team and the risk element plays a key part in the final decision. A strategic risk register is also in place and is reviewed by the Board on a quarterly basis. It identifies those risks, and recognises actions and responsibilities for mitigating them. The risk management process is on-going and reviewed regularly at all levels throughout the organisation and reported to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

#### **Going concern**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant effect on our ability to deliver a cultural programme during 2020/21. The directors have considered the effect of the pandemic on the financial position of the charity. In view of the current financial position, the funding support available, and the continued support of our commissioners, Warrington Borough Council, the directors consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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### Structure, governance and management

#### Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

E L Hutchinson

A F Appleton-Mitchell

A Bucci

M T Corfield

M Banner

L M Harrison

A Proctor

(Resigned 25 October 2021)

D C Simons

S Walsh

(Resigned 23 April 2020)

R K Welsh

C Wilcock

(Resigned 17 October 2021)

J L Wilkie

(Appointed 25 February 2021)

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

As part of the arrangements with Warrington Borough Council, the Council nominated two observers that attend Board meetings. The Council observers during the year were Councillor H Cooksey and Councillor M McLaughlin.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Culture Warrington for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

#### Auditor

The auditor, Mitchell Charlesworth LLP, is deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Disclosure of information to auditor

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

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



#### M Banner

Trustee

Dated: 25 November 2021

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Culture Warrington (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

#### Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

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

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities**

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the charity's accounting policy for revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included the Data Protection Regulations.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

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#### **Audit response to risks identified**

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

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

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

#### **Use of our report**

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

*Mitchell Charlesworth*

**Philip Griffiths (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP

25 November 2021

**Chartered Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

Glebe Business Park  
Lunts Heath Road  
Widnes  
Cheshire  
WA8 5SQ

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>							
Donations and legacies	3	566,952	-	566,952	-	-	-
Charitable activities	4	1,360,456	51,976	1,412,432	2,821,792	73,592	2,895,384
Investments	5	14,696	-	14,696	9,230	-	9,230
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,942,104</b>	<b>51,976</b>	<b>1,994,080</b>	<b>2,831,022</b>	<b>73,592</b>	<b>2,904,614</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>							
Charitable activities	6	1,581,144	57,694	1,638,838	2,890,656	90,786	2,981,442
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	216	(216)	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</b>		<b>360,960</b>	<b>(5,718)</b>	<b>355,242</b>	<b>(59,418)</b>	<b>(17,410)</b>	<b>(76,828)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>							
Actuarial (loss)/gain on defined benefit pension schemes		(1,156,000)	-	(1,156,000)	484,000	-	484,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(795,040)</b>	<b>(5,718)</b>	<b>(800,758)</b>	<b>424,582</b>	<b>(17,410)</b>	<b>407,172</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		897,131	55,517	952,648	472,549	72,927	545,476
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2021</b>		<b>102,091</b>	<b>49,799</b>	<b>151,890</b>	<b>897,131</b>	<b>55,517</b>	<b>952,648</b>

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	10		113,446		79,291
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	11	1,059		7,747	
Debtors	12	135,091		485,867	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,599,445		1,042,670	
		<u>1,735,595</u>		<u>1,536,284</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(1,036,151)</u>		<u>(1,348,927)</u>	
Net current assets			699,444		187,357
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>812,890</u>		<u>266,648</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension (liability)/surplus</b>			812,890		266,648
<b>Defined benefit pension (liability)/surplus</b>	14		<u>(661,000)</u>		<u>686,000</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u><u>151,890</u></u>		<u><u>952,648</u></u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	15		49,799		55,517
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	16	14,093		12,299	
General unrestricted funds		748,998		198,832	
Pension reserve		<u>(661,000)</u>		<u>686,000</u>	
			102,091		897,131
			<u><u>151,890</u></u>		<u><u>952,648</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 25 November 2021



M Banner  
Trustee

Company Registration No. 07974406

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	19		610,088		158,390
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(54,009)		(8,405)	
Interest received		696		2,230	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(53,313)		(6,175)
Finance lease interest		-		(899)	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		(899)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			556,775		151,316
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,042,670		891,354
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			1,599,445		1,042,670

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# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

Culture Warrington is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Pyramid Arts Centre, Palmyra Square South, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1BL.

##### 1.1 Accounting convention

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### 1.2 Going concern

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant effect our ability to deliver a cultural programme during 2020/21. The trustees have considered the effect of the pandemic on the financial position of the charity. In view of the current financial position, the funding support available, and the continued support of our commissioners, Warrington Borough Council, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

##### 1.3 Charitable funds

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

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

##### 1.4 Income

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

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

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under heading that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been included in support costs and allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Plant and equipment	10% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	20% on cost
Computer equipment	20% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

#### 1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

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

#### 1.9 Cash and 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. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### **Impairment of financial assets**

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

##### **Derecognition of financial assets**

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.11 Employee benefits

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

#### 1.12 Retirement benefits

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

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

#### 1.13 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

### 3 Donations and legacies

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Total
	<b>2021</b>	2020
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grants	389,980	-
Other Covid-19 support grants	176,972	-
	<u>566,952</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>566,952</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 4 Charitable activities

	Cultural engagement £	Museum £	Venue & events management £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Museum and Art gallery	543	305	238	1,086	9,191
Pyramid and Parr hall	(1,000)	-	19,365	18,365	1,183,123
Facility hire	-	-	14,917	14,917	242,157
Culture engagement	-	1,034	6,214	7,248	112,989
Marketing	-	-	-	-	497
Commissions	57,976	-	-	57,976	16,055
Education	3,825	-	-	3,825	22,357
Management fee	1,309,015	-	-	1,309,015	1,309,015
	<u>1,370,359</u>	<u>1,339</u>	<u>40,734</u>	<u>1,412,432</u>	<u>2,895,384</u>
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	1,318,383	1,339	40,734	1,360,456	
Restricted funds	51,976	-	-	51,976	
	<u>1,370,359</u>	<u>1,339</u>	<u>40,734</u>	<u>1,412,432</u>	
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2020</b>					
Unrestricted funds	1,340,727	9,002	1,472,063		2,821,792
Restricted funds	64,607	-	8,985		73,592
	<u>1,405,334</u>	<u>9,002</u>	<u>1,481,048</u>		<u>2,895,384</u>

#### 5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £
Deposit account interest	696	2,230
Net interest on defined benefit pension scheme	14,000	7,000
	<u>14,696</u>	<u>9,230</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 6 Charitable activities

	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2021	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2020
	2021	2021	2021		2020	2020	2020	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	153,757	98,372	267,499	519,628	172,506	104,059	322,380	598,945
Depreciation and impairment	3,959	1,559	13,752	19,270	493	1,559	9,526	11,578
Premises expenditure	8,689	-	123,051	131,740	2,257	490	273,985	276,732
Artists and event fees	32,767	5,084	14,940	52,791	90,095	3,814	613,271	707,180
Spectrix charges	-	-	8,405	8,405	-	-	21,146	21,146
Telephone and computer	10,664	-	3,162	13,826	-	-	3,166	3,166
Printing and stationery	552	-	-	552	2,868	-	221	3,089
Advertising	1,000	-	-	1,000	982	-	70	1,052
Sundries	264	93,579	1,836	95,679	4,447	94,677	43,899	143,023
Purchases and stocks	-	-	6,934	6,934	1,576	4,269	105,392	111,237
Legal costs	-	-	1,827	1,827	3,838	-	30,662	34,500
Motor, travel and entertainment	28	-	1,098	1,126	458	71	430	959
Equipment hire	-	-	2,288	2,288	7,160	-	28,165	35,325
Interest	1	-	4,310	4,311	(592)	-	14,842	14,250
Carried forward	211,681	198,594	449,102	859,377	286,088	208,939	1,467,155	1,962,182

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 6 Charitable activities

(Continued)

	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2021	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2020
	2021	2021	2021		2020	2020	2020	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	211,681	198,594	449,102	859,377	286,088	208,939	1,467,155	1,962,182
Share of support costs (see note 7)	231,326	154,190	377,399	762,915	264,456	169,250	570,406	1,004,112
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	4,886	3,135	8,525	16,546	4,438	2,681	8,029	15,148
	<u>447,893</u>	<u>355,919</u>	<u>835,026</u>	<u>1,638,838</u>	<u>554,982</u>	<u>380,870</u>	<u>2,045,590</u>	<u>2,981,442</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>								
Unrestricted funds	404,643	355,919	820,582	1,581,144	472,968	377,963	2,039,725	2,890,656
Restricted funds	43,250	-	14,444	57,694	82,014	2,907	5,865	90,786
	<u>447,893</u>	<u>355,919</u>	<u>835,026</u>	<u>1,638,838</u>	<u>554,982</u>	<u>380,870</u>	<u>2,045,590</u>	<u>2,981,442</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 7 Support costs

	Support costs Governance costs		2021	2020	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Staff costs	456,366	-	456,366	495,647	Time spent
Depreciation	584	-	584	669	
Advertising and literature	5,707	-	5,707	42,676	Charitable activity levels
Professional fees	178,915	-	178,915	170,277	Operational staff costs
Telephone and computer	47,792	-	47,792	58,211	Device numbers
Other central support costs	59,054	-	59,054	105,403	Operational staff costs
Irrecoverable VAT	14,497	-	14,497	131,229	Charitable activity levels
Audit fees	-	7,723	7,723	6,325	Governance
Legal and professional	-	8,823	8,823	8,823	Governance
	<u>762,915</u>	<u>16,546</u>	<u>779,461</u>	<u>1,019,260</u>	
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	<u>762,915</u>	<u>16,546</u>	<u>779,461</u>	<u>1,019,260</u>	

### 8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 9 Employees

##### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Management and administration	4	4
Operational team	56	58
	<u>60</u>	<u>62</u>

##### Employment costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	726,728	808,745
Social security costs	44,266	55,521
Other pension costs	205,000	230,326
	<u>975,994</u>	<u>1,094,592</u>

The members of the senior management team are employed by Livewire (Warrington) CIC.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

#### 10 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2020	93,336	23,606	51,837	168,779
Additions	37,251	470	16,288	54,009
	<u>130,587</u>	<u>24,076</u>	<u>68,125</u>	<u>222,788</u>
<b>At 31 March 2021</b>				
	<u>130,587</u>	<u>24,076</u>	<u>68,125</u>	<u>222,788</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 1 April 2020	27,416	14,022	48,049	89,487
Depreciation charged in the year	13,059	2,408	4,388	19,855
	<u>40,475</u>	<u>16,430</u>	<u>52,437</u>	<u>109,342</u>
<b>At 31 March 2021</b>				
	<u>40,475</u>	<u>16,430</u>	<u>52,437</u>	<u>109,342</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 March 2021	90,112	7,646	15,688	113,446
	<u>90,112</u>	<u>7,646</u>	<u>15,688</u>	<u>113,446</u>
At 31 March 2020	65,919	9,584	3,788	79,291
	<u>65,919</u>	<u>9,584</u>	<u>3,788</u>	<u>79,291</u>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 11 Stocks

	2021	2020
	£	£
Raw materials and consumables	1,059	7,747

### 12 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	61,439	448,456
Other debtors	-	20
Prepayments and accrued income	73,652	37,391
	<u>135,091</u>	<u>485,867</u>

### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	52,158	111,823
Trade creditors	182,761	203,288
Other creditors	46,329	25,876
Accruals and deferred income	754,903	1,007,940
	<u>1,036,151</u>	<u>1,348,927</u>

### 14 Retirement benefit schemes

#### Defined benefit schemes

The charity's employees belong to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is managed by Cheshire Pension Fund. This is a multi-employer defined-benefit scheme.

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds.

The principal actuarial assumptions are as follows;

#### Key assumptions

	2021	2020
	%	%
Discount rate	2.05	2.3
Expected rate of increase of pensions in payment	2.8	1.8
Expected rate of salary increases	3.5	2.5

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 14 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

##### *Mortality assumptions*

The assumed life expectations on retirement at age 65 are:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>
Retiring today		
- Males	21.4	21.2
- Females	24.0	23.6
	=====	=====
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.4	21.9
- Females	25.7	25.0
	=====	=====

Amounts recognised in the profit and loss account:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current service cost	205,000	231,000
Net interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	(14,000)	(7,000)
	-----	-----
Total costs	191,000	224,000
	=====	=====

Amounts taken to other comprehensive income:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Actual return on scheme assets	(868,000)	65,000
Less: calculated interest element	117,000	139,000
	-----	-----
Return on scheme assets excluding interest income	(751,000)	204,000
Actuarial changes related to obligations	1,907,000	(688,000)
	=====	=====

The amounts included in the balance sheet arising from the charity's obligations in respect of defined benefit plans are as follows:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Present value of defined benefit obligations	6,590,000	4,413,000
Fair value of plan assets	(5,929,000)	(5,099,000)
	-----	-----
Deficit/(surplus) in scheme	661,000	(686,000)
	=====	=====

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 14 Retirement benefit schemes (Continued)

Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations:

	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>
Liabilities at 1 April 2020	4,413,000
Current service cost	205,000
Benefits paid	(79,000)
Contributions from scheme members	41,000
Actuarial gains and losses	1,907,000
Interest cost	103,000
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2021	6,590,000
	<hr/> <hr/>

The defined benefit obligations arise from plans which are wholly or partly funded.

Movements in the fair value of plan assets:

	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>
Fair value of assets at 1 April 2020	5,099,000
Interest income	117,000
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest)	751,000
Benefits paid	(79,000)
Contributions by scheme members	41,000
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2021	5,929,000
	<hr/> <hr/>

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Numismatic	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Geoblitz	1,111	-	-	-	1,111	-	-	1,111
Ready to borrow	9,796	-	(1,069)	-	8,727	-	(1,128)	7,599
Contemporary Arts	-	73,592	(73,376)	(216)	-	32,023	(32,023)	-
Weston Loan Programme	5,329	-	(4,046)	-	1,283	-	-	1,283
Colonel Edelsten Bequest	31,191	-	(4,795)	-	26,396	-	(4,918)	21,478
Meeting Point	14,000	-	(7,500)	-	6,500	-	-	6,500
Peter Rogerson Bequest	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Local Growth Fund	-	-	-	-	-	19,953	(19,625)	328
	<u>72,927</u>	<u>73,592</u>	<u>(90,786)</u>	<u>(216)</u>	<u>55,517</u>	<u>51,976</u>	<u>(57,694)</u>	<u>49,799</u>

## CULTURE WARRINGTON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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#### 15 Restricted funds

(Continued)

**Numismatic** - £1,500 was received from the Northwest Museum Development Fund to improve care of and accessibility to our Numismatic collection.

**SIF** – Future Proof Museums is a national project being developed by the AMA (Arts Marketing Association) funded by Arts Council England’s Museum Resilience grant. The programme is designed to enable museums to become more resilient organisations, exploring how to change, adapt, influence and remain relevant to an ever-changing external environment.

**Geoblitz** - This grant via Leeds Museums is to develop and/or promote engagement with the Geology collection at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery.

**Ready to Borrow** - This grant from ACE is to enable Culture Warrington to buy equipment that provides a suitable and stable environment so that we are able to borrow paintings from National Museums.

**Contemporary Arts** - This is funding from ACE and Warrington Borough Council to fund the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival 2017-18.

**Weston Loan Programme** - This grant is to cover costs relating to borrowing three paintings from National Museums Liverpool, including conservation work, transport, School of Art activity programme of artist workshops and seminars, exhibition guides, additional Front of House staff. This programme will run from May to December 2018.

**Colonel Edelsten Bequest**- This grant from the Colonel Edelsten Bequest is to fund an upgrade of equipment to improve the experience for users of Culture Warrington.

**Meeting Point** - This funding from Arts and Heritage is to enable Culture Warrington to work with and commission a local artist to produce a piece of contemporary art, and to explore showing contemporary art within a heritage context. The commissioned piece will form part of the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival for 2019.

**Peter Rogerson Bequest** - This is legacy funding from the estate of local history librarian, Peter Rogerson, to be invested in developing the Charity’s Archive Service.

**Local Growth Fund** - this funding is provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership to make the existing Warrington Museum & Library building and the network of community-based libraries into hubs for the delivery of digital programmes and workshops for coding clubs, schools, local businesses and digital creatives in the community.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Transfers £	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Car park fund	10,505	1,794	12,299	1,794	14,093
	<u>10,505</u>	<u>1,794</u>	<u>12,299</u>	<u>1,794</u>	<u>14,093</u>
	<u><u>10,505</u></u>	<u><u>1,794</u></u>	<u><u>12,299</u></u>	<u><u>1,794</u></u>	<u><u>14,093</u></u>

The car park fund represents contributions to car parking by staff which the trustees have agreed to set aside to cover any future repair costs.

#### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2021 £	Restricted 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted 2020 £	Restricted 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	84,932	28,514	113,446	44,169	35,122	79,291
Current assets/(liabilities)	678,159	21,285	699,444	166,962	20,395	187,357
Provisions and pensions	(661,000)	-	(661,000)	686,000	-	686,000
	<u>102,091</u>	<u>49,799</u>	<u>151,890</u>	<u>897,131</u>	<u>55,517</u>	<u>952,648</u>
	<u><u>102,091</u></u>	<u><u>49,799</u></u>	<u><u>151,890</u></u>	<u><u>897,131</u></u>	<u><u>55,517</u></u>	<u><u>952,648</u></u>

#### 18 Related party transactions

During the current and prior year Culture Warrington utilises the key management personnel and resources of Livewire (Warrington) CIC a company registered in England and Wales, company number 07972958. A recharge is incurred from Livewire (Warrington) CIC for the use of these resources.

# CULTURE WARRINGTON

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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19	Cash generated from operations	2021	2020
		£	£
	(Deficit)/surplus for the year	355,242	(76,828)
	Adjustments for:		
	Finance lease interest	-	899
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(696)	(2,230)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	19,854	12,247
	Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	191,000	165,000
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease in stocks	6,688	9,495
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	350,776	(348,476)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(312,776)	398,283
	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<u>610,088</u>	<u>158,390</u>

### 20 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.