

Charity registration number 1171347 (England and Wales)

**BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

# BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	R Snowdon	
	MP Hall	
	J Eaton	
	CL Thompson	(Appointed 15 May 2024)
	D Oliver	(Appointed 23 October 2024)
	A Oliver	(Appointed 23 October 2024)
<b>Charity number</b>	1171347	
<b>Principal address</b>	Blyth Community Enterprise Centre Room 118 Ridley Street Blyth Northumberland England NE24 3AG	
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Robson Laidler Accountants Limited Fernwood House Fernwood Road Jesmond Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear England NE2 1TJ	
<b>Bankers</b>	National Westminster plc Whitley Bay 18 Park View Northumberland NE26 2TQ	

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# **BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE**

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# **BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

#### **Objectives and activities**

Blyth Resource and Initiative Centre (BRIC) is a people-focused charity based in Blyth, South East Northumberland. Our core mission is to support individuals to achieve long-term, sustainable employment. Many face complex barriers, and we work alongside them to build confidence, skills and independence - enabling more positive choices and a better quality of life.

There are no eligibility criteria for accessing our support. We work collaboratively with a wide range of partners to ensure people receive the specialist help they need. Our response-to-need approach tailors support to each person's goals, circumstances and ambitions.

BRIC delivers a wide range of essential provision to help people progress towards employment. This includes:

#### **Education**

A blend of accredited and informal learning to build knowledge and skills. This includes Digital Skills qualifications, Functional Skills in English and Maths, Literacy, digital workshops, emotional wellbeing and mental health sessions.

#### **Employability**

Group and one-to-one support covering job searching, Universal Jobmatch, online and paper applications, interview skills and mock interviews. As a UKSPF Solid Foundations delivery partner (with Thriving Together as lead), we also offer a popular CV-writing service where clients learn to create, update and tailor their own CVs.

#### **Digital Inclusion**

Delivered across Northumberland, this programme ensures residents—not only jobseekers—have the digital skills to access essential services, learning opportunities and community life.

#### **Drop-In Support**

Open access to computers with staff support. While available to anyone, priority is given to those completing job-related activities such as job-searching, applications and Universal Jobmatch recording.

#### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees confirm compliance with the public benefit requirement under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

# **BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE**

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### **Achievements and performance**

The cost-of-living crisis continues to weigh heavily on Blyth and wider Northumberland, and the year ahead remains challenging. Despite this, BRIC's Chief Executive and team have strengthened partnerships and networks, successfully delivering a broad programme of activity. Importantly, new funding was secured in a difficult economic climate.

Key achievements include:

- Continued delivery within the UKSPF Solid Foundations programme
- Retention of Centre accreditation for Functional Skills in Maths and English
- Renewal of Direct Claims Status by NOCN
- Ongoing delivery of digital inclusion training and our Literacy programme, boosting employability and confidence
- Positive feedback from Ofsted monitoring visits

Our Board remained active and engaged. Although two Trustees stepped down, new Trustees were swiftly appointed, improving Board diversity with two female Trustees. Work to further broaden representation continues.

### **Financial review**

For the year ending 31 March 2025:

- Total income: £159,269
- Total expenditure: £156,442
- Net income: £2,827
- Total funds: £71,512

The Board noted the November 2024 budget implications for the change in employer NI contributions due for implementation in April 2025.

### **Funding**

BRIC's income comes from core service delivery and project-specific grants. Funds primarily support staff, tutors and administrative functions.

Highlights included renewed support from Virgin Money and Greggs, and continued UKSPF Solid Foundations partnership funding. Several smaller grants also contributed to a stable year-end financial position, reinforcing BRIC's reputation as a trusted and effective delivery partner.

### **Reserves Policy**

Overall reserves have increased from £68,685 in 2024 to £71,512 in 2025. Free reserves, being unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets totalled £56,407 (2024: £62,616).

Trustees review reserves regularly to ensure BRIC remains financially resilient.

# **BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE**

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### **Business Development**

Over the year, Trustees explored opportunities to widen BRIC's reach while maintaining our core strengths and acknowledging the small but committed size of our team. With significant regional change, including public-sector financial pressures and the establishment of the North East Combined Authority, Trustees will continue strategic development conversations, including a dedicated workshop planned for Summer 2025. As well as the pressures on public-sector finances, the Board recognise that the private sector and several well-established Foundations also have reduced money available and/or are changing their focus for investing money. The landscape will therefore be tricky to navigate, and we need to ensure we are agile to take advantage of potential opportunities.

During this period, CEO Sharron Fawcett joined the Blyth Town Board, strengthening BRIC's role in local regeneration and decision-making.

### **IT Infrastructure**

BRIC continues to operate a secure, resilient IT system enabling flexible working for staff and online delivery for clients when required.

### **The Future**

Northumberland County Council continues to advance major plans to redevelop Blyth town centre. The opening of the Northumberland passenger rail line has already delivered significant positive impact, and further investment is flowing into the town. As a Town Board member, Sharron Fawcett remains closely involved.

Northumberland County Council secured major investment from QTS for a £10bn data centre in Cambois. It is expected this development will provide a significant employment and regeneration boost for the local area, both in terms of the building and on-going operation of the facility as well as for the wider supply-chain and business community in South East Northumberland.

The UKSPF Solid Foundations programme has been extended to March 2026—its final extension. BRIC and Thriving Together will continue working closely to explore successor funding opportunities. The launch of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) in May 2025 marks an important shift in regional structures. BRIC has worked proactively to maintain strong relationships during this transition.

### **Structure, governance and management** **Governing document**

BRIC is a registered charity governed by a Constitution and the Charity Commission.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

R Snowdon

MP Hall

J Eaton

EJ Agar

(Appointed 15 May 2024 and resigned 22 October 2025)

CL Thompson

(Appointed 15 May 2024)

D Oliver

(Appointed 23 October 2024)

A Oliver

(Appointed 23 October 2024)

S Durrant

(Appointed 1 April 2024 and resigned 1 December 2024)

### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

Trustees are re-appointed annually at the AGM for up to five consecutive years.

Following the Trustee appointments of Mr Andy Oliver and Mrs Debbie Oliver in November 2024, who are a married couple, action was taken to revise the Constitution to ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidelines in this regard. Primarily this focused on the matter of the two related Trustees having a single vote on the Board. Documentation was forwarded to the Charity Commission in February 2025 to progress this matter.

# **BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE**

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### **Organisational structure**

The Board meets every six weeks to oversee governance, finance and strategic direction. Delegated authority sits with the Chair and Vice-Chair between meetings. Working groups are formed when needed. The Chief Executive manages day-to-day operations and leads a team of four.

### **Induction and training of new trustees**

New Trustees receive a comprehensive induction pack, meet with senior leaders, tour the centre and identify training needs. A skills audit is periodically conducted to guide future recruitment and ensure diversity of skills and perspectives.


### **Key management remuneration**

Salary reviews and job evaluations are undertaken periodically.

### **Related parties**

BRIC collaborates widely across the voluntary and statutory sectors. Key partnerships include Thriving Together, NLT, NCVA, CAB and Cygnus through the UKSPF Solid Foundations programme. CEO Sharron Fawcett also serves as a Trustee for Headway Arts and is involved in establishing a Read Easy literacy initiative in Northumberland.

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



**R Snowden**

Trustee

Dated: 15/12/25

# **BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Blyth Resource and Initiative Centre (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



**Nicholas Cunningham FCCA**  
**Robson Laidler Accountants Limited**

Fernwood House  
Fernwood Road  
Jesmond  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
Tyne and Wear  
NE2 1TJ  
England

Dated: 19-12-2025



# BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes				
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>					
Donations and legacies	2	140,514	18,693	159,207	93,126
Charitable activities		62	-	62	19,774
<b>Total income</b>		<u>140,576</u>	<u>18,693</u>	<u>159,269</u>	<u>112,900</u>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>					
Charitable activities	3	<u>148,358</u>	<u>8,084</u>	<u>156,442</u>	<u>145,150</u>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		(7,782)	10,609	2,827	(32,250)
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>68,685</u>	-	<u>68,685</u>	<u>100,935</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2025</b>		<u><u>60,903</u></u>	<u><u>10,609</u></u>	<u><u>71,512</u></u>	<u><u>68,685</u></u>

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

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

# BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		funds	funds	
	Notes	2024	2024	2024
		£	£	£
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>				
Donations and legacies	2	93,126	-	93,126
Charitable activities		19,774	-	19,774
<b>Total income</b>		<u>112,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,900</u>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>				
Charitable activities	3	89,918	55,232	145,150
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		22,982	(55,232)	(32,250)
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		<u>45,703</u>	<u>55,232</u>	<u>100,935</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024</b>		<u><u>68,685</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>68,685</u></u>

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

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

# BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8		4,496		6,069
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	320		266	
Cash at bank and in hand		72,668		71,705	
		72,988		71,971	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	(5,972)		(9,355)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			67,016		62,616
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			71,512		68,685
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	14	10,609		-	
Unrestricted funds	13	60,903		68,685	
		71,512		68,685	

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 15/12/25



R Snowdon  
Trustee

# **BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

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#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Charity information**

Blyth Resource and Initiative Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. (Charity number: 1171347)

##### **1.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011, 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 charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

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**

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

##### **1.3 Charitable funds**

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

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

##### **1.4 Income**

Income is recognised when the 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.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

## (Continued)

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
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Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants	140,514	18,693	159,207	93,126	-	93,126

# BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 3 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charity activities 2025 £	Charity activities 2024 £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Staff costs	106,797	102,117
Depreciation and impairment	2,373	2,215
Rent	17,527	15,961
Registration fees	5,842	2,405
Tutor costs	14,143	11,040
Annual Subscriptions	564	-
Staff expenses and training	2,204	3,342
Advertising	504	537
	<u>149,954</u>	<u>137,617</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 4)</b>		
Support	4,653	5,767
Governance	1,835	1,766
	<u>156,442</u>	<u>145,150</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	148,358	89,918
Restricted funds	8,084	55,232
	<u>156,442</u>	<u>145,150</u>

### 4 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Insurance	1,064	1,013
Telephone	161	55
Postage and stationery	1,490	1,358
Office costs	1,402	3,057
Staff travel	395	150
Bank charges	141	159
Governance costs	1,835	1,741
	<u>6,488</u>	<u>7,533</u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Charity activities	<u>6,488</u>	<u>7,533</u>

# BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 5 Trustees

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

### 6 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Operational staff	5	5
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	101,167	97,309
Social security costs	2,685	2,152
Other pension costs	2,945	2,656
	<u>106,797</u>	<u>102,117</u>
	<u>106,797</u>	<u>102,117</u>

During the year, key management remuneration totalled £33,026 (2024: 32,889).

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

### 7 Taxation

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

# BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 8 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2024	11,199
Additions	800
	<u>          </u>
At 31 March 2025	11,999
	<u>          </u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2024	5,130
Depreciation charged in the year	2,373
	<u>          </u>
At 31 March 2025	7,503
	<u>          </u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2025	4,496
	<u>          </u>
At 31 March 2024	6,069
	<u>          </u>

### 9 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Prepayments and accrued income	320	266
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	1,719	6,518
Trade creditors	2,249	1,459
Other creditors	548	106
Accruals and deferred income	1,456	1,272
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	5,972	9,355
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 11 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	2,945	2,656
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

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



# BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
<b>At 31 March 2025:</b>			
Tangible assets	4,496	-	4,496
Current assets/(liabilities)	56,407	10,609	67,016
	<u>60,903</u>	<u>10,609</u>	<u>71,512</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>At 31 March 2024:</b>			
Tangible assets	6,069	-	6,069
Current assets/(liabilities)	62,616	-	62,616
	<u>68,685</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,685</u>

### 13 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 £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	<u>68,685</u>	<u>140,576</u>	<u>(148,358)</u>	<u>60,903</u>
<b>Previous year:</b>				
	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	<u>45,703</u>	<u>112,900</u>	<u>(89,918)</u>	<u>68,685</u>

# BLYTH RESOURCE AND INITIATIVE CENTRE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 14 Restricted funds

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

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended 31 March 2025	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
The Bernicia Foundation	-	6,000	(2,796)	3,204
Access Foundation	-	12,693	(5,288)	7,405
	<u>-</u>	<u>18,693</u>	<u>(8,084)</u>	<u>10,609</u>
<b>The Access Foundation</b>				

In accordance with the terms of the grant, these funds are to be used solely for the delivery of our Roving IT provision, and cannot be applied to any other charitable activities. At year-end, the balance of restricted funds reflects the unspent portion of the grant, which will be carried forward and utilised in line with the funder's conditions in the forthcoming period.

#### **Bernicia**

In accordance with the terms of the grant, these funds are to be used solely for the delivery of our Functional Skills provision, and cannot be applied to any other charitable activities. At year-end, the balance of restricted funds reflects the unspent portion of the grant, which will be carried forward and utilised in line with the funder's conditions in the forthcoming period.

### 15 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).