



Whitley Bay Big Local

**Trustee's Report and Unaudited Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

Company No. CE010450

Charity No. 1171818



Whitley Bay Big Local

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Whitley Bay Big Local



Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Registration Number	1171848
Company Registration Number	CE010450
Trustees	Jessica Burns Daniel Crowe Helen Frankenberg Marie-Louise O'Hanrahan Anne Hetherington Deborah Frazer Paul Haggie Chris Wild Hayley Buxton Stephen Clark
	Resigned 5 July 2023 Appointed 8 June 2023 Appointed 18 January 2024

Registered Office

158 Whitley Road
Whitley Bay
Tyne and Wear
NE26 2LY

Independent Examiner

W8 Financial Services Limited
24 Hermonston
Whitley Bay
Tyne and Wear
NE25 9AN



Whitley Bay Big Local

Trustee's Report

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission, Registered Charity No.1174848.

The trustees are responsible for the management and administration of the charity. The trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits

We welcomed two new Trustees to the board. One board member resigned, so the charity ended the year with a board of 9 trustees, five of whom are residents of our direct catchment area.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity are:

"To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the community of Whitley Bay and, in particular, those inhabitants in need of relief from financial hardship due to their social and/or economic circumstances by associating together the said inhabitants, and the statutory authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to improve facilities and service provision in the interest of social welfare, community cohesion and improving conditions and life chances for local residents."

The activities of the charity are:

Whitley Bay Big Local is a community-led initiative to enable all who live or work in the Whitley Bay Town Centre area to come together to improve the community and make the town a place to be proud of.

The charity was established as a result of the Big Local Programme, which has supported Whitley Bay Big Local since 2012. Whitley Bay is one of 150 community-led groups throughout England and Wales who were granted £1 million to be spent over 10 years as part of this programme. The grant is overseen by a national body called Local Trust and used to support people living in a targeted geographical community to identify issues of concern, propose solutions and resource those ideas.

The overall national programme 'outcomes' that we are working towards are:

- Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them
- People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future
- The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises
- People will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

Our work focused on two key 'themes' in 2023/24:

- **Environment & Sustainability** - helping to improve how Whitley Bay looks for residents and visitors. Reducing our impact on the world around us through sustainable business practices
- **Health and Wellbeing** - providing activities and support to local people in Whitley Bay



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Achievements and performance for the year ended 31st March 2024

The first phase of work to transform our building from 'Job Centre' to sustainable Eco-Hub was completed in July 2023. Having already replaced the roof and added solar panels in early 2023, we completed this phase with a total refurbishment of the ground floor, creating a welcoming community café and family meeting space. Towards the end of December, work started on improving the community garden and by the end of March, the garden was gearing up to welcome centre users and host events.

We were very privileged to have taken part in the Enterprise Development Programme, funded by SIB Group and supported by Groundwork. This project helped us explore and develop avenues for trading, including a new café and focus on room hire. Participation in this programme happily coincided with changes to the building and resulted in a new plan to engage communities, whilst ensuring the organisation has a sustainable basis as we move away from funding through the Big Local programme.

The improvements to the charity as a result of the refurbishment and development programme have been nothing short of phenomenal. Footfall into the building has increased by 800%. Income from trading has increased six-fold, which has created the basis for long-term sustainability. Feedback from local people has been extremely positive, with most valuing the family orientated space and affordable pricing. It is genuinely a hub of the community.

Alongside the development of trading and sustainability we are still able to support our communities. In the ground floor hub we have regular pop-up information stands, working in partnership with other charities to provide information and advice to local residents. We offer drop-in community activities, including warm hub sessions that took place three times per week. We continue to offer activities for isolated people, with a view to reducing loneliness. We provide information, advice and guidance from our community help-desk as well as providing a range of support information for anyone attending the building.

In January this year, thanks to funding from North Tyneside Council we were able to convert our food pantry into a community shop. This provides dignity and choice for people to choose a range of healthy foods to prepare meals. The shop provides affordable essentials and helps people to learn to plan their budgets and avoid falling into food poverty. We collect surplus food from producers and supermarkets and redistribute it, reducing the amount of food that reaches landfill.

We successfully completed our first year on the Draught Includers project funded by Energy Redress. This project meets people in vulnerable circumstances and helps to reduce their bills by giving away small items to reduce energy usage. We have successfully applied for a second round of funding, which has got off to a fantastic start so far in 2024.

In 2023 we also developed a new 'repair café' project. We were able to use funding from the Big Local programme to train a team of volunteers and a Trustee took the lead on developing the initiative. The repair café now takes place on the second Saturday of every month. You can bring along any treasured item and the team in the café will do their best to fix it.

We have developed a network of stakeholders who are interested in the local environment. This group meets on a quarterly basis and come together to explore ideas and initiatives to improve the local area.



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We have increased our network of volunteers to 23. Volunteers play a crucial role in the delivery of our charity, from collecting food donations, supporting customers in the shop, helping in the café, gardening, manning the helpdesk and completing administrative tasks. Our achievements this year really wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, so I would like to acknowledge and say thank-you to everyone who has volunteered any time in the course of the year.

We are now closed out of the Big Local programme. This has been a fantastic initiative for Whitley Bay, with over £1 million invested into activities to make Whitley Bay an even better place to live, work and visit. Our legacy is a sustainable community building and charity established to take the initiative forward. Since the charity was established, we have been able to secure additional match-funding of over £1 million to invest into the community building and other projects. As we move forward, our strategy is to secure income from grants and trading to ensure the charity is a sustainable entity and to expand our activities to meet need in the local community.

Future Plans-2024/25 and beyond

Sustainability:

The next financial year will be the first year without financial support from the Big Local programme, which has been an important element of our budget. Learning to manage without this funding in place will be the priority for this year. We will introduce new activities and spaces that attract people into the building and look to increase the number and effectiveness of different trading activities. Focusing on sustainability will be in line with our values and we will maintain or improve activities to make a difference to people living in the local area. Specifically, we will:

- Look to secure funding to upgrade our lift. Activities taking place on the upper floors and accessing toilets require people with mobility issues to use the lift. The lift is long overdue an upgrade, but this will be a costly affair.
- Developing facilities to improve the offer in the café
- Developing spaces to increase room hire. Specifically, we are planning to develop the top-floor to make a suitable large meeting room to further improve footfall

Health and Wellbeing activities:

Our health and wellbeing activities will focus on two areas that are particularly important to local people. These are the outcomes that we will aim to impact over the next 12 months and beyond:

Tackling loneliness/isolation.

Many of the people who attend our activities experience loneliness and social isolation sometimes or often. Delivering activities that bring people together for any or no reason is really important, and we will continue to offer free room hire and facilitation of these activities. We will continue to work in partnership with many other organisations who provide sessions for people to access support for specific issues that affect them.

Tackling financial disadvantage.

We will provide access to free or affordable activities. We will seek funding to re-develop our reception and community shop to ensure that people have access to advice and guidance. We will maintain a community shop offer and seek to secure funding to ensure we can continue to offer access to affordable groceries and household essentials.



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Environmental activities:

Local people care passionately about the environment, both at a local and global scale. Over the coming years we will increase focus on these areas and use our hub as a space for people to come together, discuss and address concerns. Some of the specific initiatives that we hope to implement include:

Awareness raising community activities.

We will develop the repair café and look to increase attendance. As part of this we will look to develop partnerships and create a new initiative to tackle the growing challenge of electric waste. Thanks to funding received from Northern Powergrid Foundation we will launch activities that bring people together to explore their energy usage and look to make savings.

Reducing our energy usage.

We will seek opportunities to improve the efficiency of our building, such as improved insulation, heating performance and reducing electricity consumption

Financial review:

The year saw total income of £399,617 and expenditure of £516,388, realising a substantial deficit of £116,771. Expenditure in the year ending 31 March 2024 was significantly more than usual, mainly due to planned capital expenditure of £245,576 in our community hub. Total funds carried forward are £734,454, of which £113,425 can be considered unrestricted free reserves (including designated). We received an unrestricted grant of £50,000 at the end of March 2024. Trustees have agreed to designate this grant and a further £2,500 for projects to improve our offer to local communities.

Trustees are satisfied with the current financial position and believe Whitley Bay Big Local has a solid financial underpinning to achieve its objectives.

Reserves policy:

The purpose of the policy is to maintain unrestricted 'free' reserves at an appropriate level to account for unanticipated losses of income. The policy recommends that trustees maintain unrestricted reserves of between 3 - 6 months total expenditure, measured against the agreed forecast for the following financial year. At 31 March 2024 free reserves were £113,425, equivalent to 4.2 months' projected expenditure in the year ending 31 March 2025. Trustees are satisfied with the current level of reserves and aim to maintain the current position.

Investment policy:

The charity has no long-term investments. All cash assets are held in a Lloyds instant access current account, or an interest-bearing savings account held at Triodos Bank.



Whitley Bay Big Local

Trustee's Report

Statement of trustees' responsibilities:

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, 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 accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed.

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.

The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website.

Approved by the trustees on and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DFrazer'.

Deborah Frazer
Chair



Whitley Bay Big Local

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Whitley Bay Big Local ("the company") for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts.

The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

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:

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

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

Lee Thompson ACA
WB Financial Services

18/7/2024
Date



Whitley Bay Big Local

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from					
Donations and Legacies	2	4,989	0	4,989	15,824
Charitable Activities	3	160,719	232,670	393,389	236,704
Investment Income	4	1,240	0	1,240	267
Total Income		<u>166,948</u>	<u>232,670</u>	<u>399,617</u>	<u>252,785</u>
Expenditure on					
Raising Funds		0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	5	202,181	314,207	516,388	243,802
Other		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>202,181</u>	<u>314,207</u>	<u>516,388</u>	<u>243,802</u>
Net Income / (Expenditure)		(35,234)	(81,537)	(116,771)	8,993
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	10	148,659	456,989	605,648	596,655
Building Refurbishment	10		245,577	245,577	0
Total Funds Carried Forward		<u>148,659</u>	<u>621,029</u>	<u>734,454</u>	<u>605,648</u>



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Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	FY24 £	FY23 £
Fixed Assets	6	754,890	513,648
Current Assets	7	5,985	3,079
Debtors		<u>149,004</u>	<u>261,576</u>
Cash at Bank and In Hand		<u>154,989</u>	<u>264,655</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(20,671)</u>	<u>(8,025)</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)		<u>134,318</u>	<u>256,630</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	9	<u>(154,754)</u>	<u>(164,625)</u>
Total net assets / (liabilities)		<u><u>734,454</u></u>	<u><u>605,648</u></u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	10	621,029	456,989
Designated funds	10	52,500	50,000
Unrestricted funds	10	<u>60,925</u>	<u>98,659</u>
		<u><u>734,454</u></u>	<u><u>605,648</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 1 to 14
were approved by the trustees,
and authorised for issue on and signed on their behalf
by Deborah Frazer

 Trustee



Whitley Bay Big Local

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Whitley Bay Big Local meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Income and Endowments

Donations & Legacies

Unrestricted donations are recognized upon receipt in the financial statements as income. If donations are restricted for specific purposes, they are accounted for as restricted funds. Donations received in kind, such as goods or services, are recorded at their fair value.

Charitable Activities

Income generated from charitable activities, including but not limited to grants received, events, services provided, and other activities that further the charity's objectives, is recognized when the events take place or the services are rendered. The Income is reported gross of any expenses unless they are intrinsic to generating that income.

Expenditure

Charitable Activities

Direct costs incurred in the delivery of charitable activities and services are included here.

This includes costs directly associated with the operation of programs, projects, and other activities that further the charity's objectives.

Depreciation

Freehold Buildings

In line with the charity's accounting policy, freehold buildings are not depreciated. The decision not to depreciate freehold buildings is based on the trustees' judgement that these assets have indefinite useful lives and, given their nature, they are maintained regularly at a standard that prevents their value from diminishing over time. Any impairments in the value of freehold buildings are recognized immediately in the statement of financial activities.



Whitley Bay Big Local

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Plant and Machinery

Plant and machinery owned by Whitley Bay Big Local are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. The charity considers the useful life of plant and machinery to be 10 years. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of each asset, less its estimated residual value, over its expected useful life. The depreciation method reflects the pattern in which the asset's economic benefits are consumed by the organization.

Depreciation is charged to the statement of financial activities from the date the asset is available for use and continues until the asset is derecognized, even if the asset becomes idle. The depreciation charge for each period is recognized as an expenditure in the categories that reflect the function of the asset.

Residual values and useful lives are reviewed at the end of each reporting period and adjusted if necessary. If there is an indication of a significant change in the value or condition of the asset that would affect its residual value, useful life, or depreciation method, adjustments are made prospectively as a change in accounting estimate in accordance with accounting standards.

2 Donations and Legacies

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
Donations	£ 4,989	£ 0	£ 4,989	£ 15,824
	<u>4,989</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,989</u>	<u>15,824</u>

3 Income: Charitable Activities

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
Restricted Grants Received	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Grants	63,319	232,670	232,670	209,169
Café Sales	47,711		47,711	
Shop Sales	998		998	
Co-working	654		654	
Room Hire	48,037		48,037	27,595
	<u>160,719</u>	<u>232,670</u>	<u>393,389</u>	<u>236,764</u>



Whitley Bay Big Local

Notes to the financial statements

4 Investment Income

	2024		2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Bank Interest Received	1,240		1,240
	1,240	0	1,240
			267
			267

5 Expenditure: Charitable Activities

	2024		2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Project Delivery Costs		54,881	54,881
Cafe Expenses	17,233	3,395	20,628
Shop Expenses	0	385	385
Salaries and Wages	34,693	81,627	116,320
Employers NI	3,205		3,205
Employers Pensions	2,269		2,269
Loan Interest	6,474	8,221	14,695
Utilities	5,708	6,176	11,884
Facilities	18,046	1,500	19,546
Office Expense	3,822	4,812	8,634
Consultancy & Professional	5,700	8,130	13,830
Bank Charges	204		204
Depreciation Charge		4,330	4,330
Refurbishment	104,827	140,749	245,576
	202,181	314,207	516,388
			243,802

6 Fixed Assets

	Freehold Building	Plant and Machinery	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	475,270	43,926	519,196
Additions	245,577		245,577
Disposals			0
At 31 March 2024	720,847	43,926	764,773
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	0	5,553	5,553
Additions		4,330	4,330
At 31 March 2024	0	9,883	9,883
Net Book Value at 31 March 2023	475,270	38,373	513,643
Net Book Value at 31 March 2024	720,847	34,043	754,890



Whitley Bay Big Local
Notes to the financial statements

10 Movement in Funds (continued)

Unrestricted Funds	Funds b/f	Income	Expenditure	Funds c/f
	£	£	£	£
Reserves	98,559	114,448	(152,181)	60,925
Designated Funds	50,000	2,500	(50,000)	2,500
Postcode Lottery		50,000		50,000
Rebushment to Restricted				0
	<u>148,559</u>	<u>166,948</u>	<u>(202,181)</u>	<u>113,425</u>