



Whitley Bay Big Local

**Trutsee's Report and Unaudited Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Company No. CE010450

Charity No. 1171818



Whitley Bay Big Local

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees Report	2 to 6
Independent Examiners Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statement	10 to 14



Whitley Bay Big Local



Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Registration Number	1171848	
Company Registration Number	CE010450	
Trustees	Jessica Burns Helen Frankenberg Marie-Louise O'Hanrahan Daniel Crowe Anne Hetherington Deborah Frazer Paul Haggie Hayley Buxton Stephen Clark Victoria Stamp Shannon Browning Peter Forman	resigned Nov 2024 resigned May 2024 resigned May 2024 appointed Sep 2024 appointed Jan 2025 appointed Jan 2025
Registered Office	158 Whitley Road Whitley Bay Tyne and Wear NE26 2LY	
Independent Examiner	AIMS Accountants for Business 11a Front Street Monkseason Tyne and Wear NE25 8AN	



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.1171848.

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. The board currently comprises of 8 trustees, all of whom are local residents and support the organisation to make Whitley Bay an even better place to live, work and visit.

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 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 was 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. 2024 saw this programme come to an end and Whitley Bay Big Local CIO is standing alone as a legacy organisation, generating income through trading, grants and donations.

All of our outcomes are focused on achieving three core outcomes:

Reducing loneliness/isolation

Supporting people who are financially disadvantaged

Taking action locally to address global climate concerns



Whitley Bay Big Local

Trustee's Report

Achievements and performance for the year ended 31st March 2025

12 years ago, the town centre area of Whitley Bay was chosen as one of 150 areas to deliver a Big Local project. What followed was 2 years of planning and 10 years of delivery, with a planned finish in summer 2024. As planned, the last of our Big Local funding was spent and we officially closed out of the programme in July 2024. All big local areas were required to develop a legacy. For some, the end of funding will mean the end of their project, with their legacy being the improved places and infrastructure made possible by the grant. Others, like Whitley Bay Big Local, have chosen to continue. We've been planning for life after Big Local for several years and have developed a financially robust charity that has a good chance of long-term success. Key to the charity's sustainability has been the purchase of our community building in 2021 and the major refurbishment projects in 2023 to develop the building into a sustainable community hub from which we can develop and deliver new projects. After 12 years with the security of Big Local funding, we are now planning to use our sustainable base as a platform for growth.

Given the significant amount of change in the last 12 months, 2025 was always intended to be a year of consolidation and developing the basis for long-term sustainability. With that in mind, we were incredibly fortunate to be chosen to benefit from a £50,000 grant from Postcode Community Trust, which was to be used for any charitable purpose and was received in March 2024. This gave us a huge boost in our first year of operation after the end of the Big Local programme. The grant was used to underpin key core costs and maintain stability at a time of significant change.

Our hub has gone from strength to strength. Footfall has continued to grow, with the cafe a very popular addition to Whitley Bay, in particular for young parents and older people. As a result of cafe sales being higher than anticipated, we needed to register for VAT, which adds further pressure on our sustainability in future years. Towards the end of the year, we welcomed two new organisations as long-term tenants in the building. Depaul is a charity supporting homeless young people and Cash Access UK ensures access to local banking facilities for older and vulnerable people.

With the support of National Lottery Community Fund, we were able to develop a new 'helpdesk' and improved community shop. The new space creates a warm welcome for visitors to the building. We are able to support people with basic needs, ensure they've got something to eat or access to services. The new reception space has really transformed our ability to meet people's basic needs and is a smart looking space for visitors to the building.

Grants from National Lottery Community Fund and Newcastle Building Society paid for continued support of our community shop/volunteer co-ordinator. Volunteers play a vital role for Whitley Bay Big Local, with 47 regular volunteers each giving a minimum of three hours per week. At Whitley Bay Big Local, you're likely to be greeted by a volunteer, served in the cafe by a volunteer, see volunteers gardening or litter picking, but that's not all. We also have volunteers behind the scenes, a volunteer book-keeper, volunteer administrators, volunteer session leaders and more. We really wouldn't be able to continue without the valuable input from volunteers.



Whitley Bay Big Local

Trustee's Report

For the third consecutive year, we've been trusted by Energy Saving Trust with an Energy Redress funded project. The grant funds an energy advisor to reach the needs of vulnerable people around North Tyneside. The project is delivered in community centres and spaces where people feel at ease and helps to ensure people understand their energy bills and make small changes to reduce their impact on the world around them, whilst continuing to be safely warm and comfortable in their homes.

We were also selected as a charity partner in Northern Powergrid's Community DSO Trial. As a partner, we receive funding to engage local people and look to involve them in an innovative trial, which ultimately aims to reduce and democratise energy consumption. This project is just getting started, but it's great to be trusted to deliver a contract with national significance such as this one.

We developed a new initiative, known as Recharge, which encourages men to volunteer as electrical repair volunteers under the watchful eye of a qualified electrical engineer. We successfully applied to Newcastle University to develop a pilot project and later received continuation funding from North Tyneside Council (via Material Focus). Repair and reuse are central to our forward strategy as we focus on financially sustainable initiatives that can reduce our impact on the world around us. At the end of the year we had developed a partnership with a national waste recycling service to develop a reuse hub for North Tyneside.

With these opportunities in mind, we needed to review our strategy and develop a new business plan, to ensure we retain focus on the initiatives we've developed, whilst maximising our potential for future development. It was therefore very opportune that we were able to secure a grant from SIB group towards the development of a new business plan. By the end of March, this was still very much a work in progress, with opportunities still to be explored that would be fundamental to a new business plan.

The major capital refurbishment project for this year was to refurbish the lift. The lift was well past its use by date, and although still operational, was suffering from frequent breakdowns and reliability issues. We were able to raise £24,500 towards the cost of the refurbishment project from funders including Joicey Trust, Catherine Cookson Foundation, Clothworkers Foundation and Bernard Sunley. The lift project was completed in February 2025.

To conclude, the year saw numerous developments that ultimately combine to make Whitley Bay Big Local an ongoing success story. We hope this story continues long into the future.

Future Plans-2025/26 and beyond

A new business plan will be developed to guide us through the next several years of development. A strategy review group has been formed from existing trustees to guide the development of the plan. Together with the CEO, the review group will ensure that all opportunities are explored to ensure Whitley Bay Big Local can continue to reach its potential.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the name and objects of Whitley Bay Big Local are hindering its chances of securing grants and contracts to deliver services. We will undertake a review of name, objects and structure to ensure we can meet future opportunities.



Whitley Bay Big Local

Trustee's Report

New strategic focus

Alongside the potential change to name and objects will be an internal restructure to recognise three distinct operations, those being Whitley Bay Big Local, Energy Projects and Repair/Reuse.

Whitley Bay Big Local:

Whitley Bay Big Local will continue to exist as the operational base of the charity. The base will need to achieve full sustainability through grants and trading and maximise its potential to reach and engage people in and around Whitley Bay.

Energy Projects:

We will look to successfully deliver our commitments for the Energy Redress Programme and the Northern Powergrid DSO trial. At the same time, we are planning to take advantage of opportunities, such as developing community energy projects in Whitley Bay.

Repair/Reuse:

The successful development of a reuse hub will create opportunities for the charity. The shop will operate as a social enterprise, with profits being returned to the charity. Whitley Bay Big Local will also explore grant opportunities to develop reuse, repair and recycling projects, ultimately placing itself as North Tyneside's recognised recycling/reuse/repair charity.

Reducing our energy usage.

We will seek opportunities to improve the efficiency of Whitley Bay Big Local, such as the addition of solar batteries and improved insulation.

Financial review:

The year saw total income of £378,131 and expenditure of £370,138, realising a small surplus of £7,992. Total funds carried forward are £742,446, of which £125,334 can be considered unrestricted free reserves (including designated). 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 £125,344, equivalent to 4 months' total expenditure. 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 black 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 2025.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Thomson'.

Lee Thomson ACA
AIMS Accountants for Business

10/10/2025

Date



Whitley Bay Big Local

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from					
Donations and Legacies	2	7,373	0	7,373	4,989
Charitable Activities	3	243,763	126,468	370,232	393,389
Investment Income	4	1,294	0	1,294	1,240
Total Income		<u>252,431</u>	<u>126,468</u>	<u>378,899</u>	<u>399,617</u>
Expenditure on					
Raising Funds				0	0
Charitable Activities	5	233,020	137,118	370,138	516,388
Other				0	0
Total Expenditure		<u>233,020</u>	<u>137,118</u>	<u>370,138</u>	<u>516,388</u>
Net Income / (Expenditure)		19,410	(10,650)	8,761	(116,771)
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	10	113,425	20,719	134,145	605,648
Building Refurbishment	10		600,310	600,310	245,577
Total Funds Carried Forward		<u>113,425</u>	<u>621,029</u>	<u>734,455</u>	<u>851,225</u>



Whitley Bay Big Local

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets	6	761,488	754,890
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	49,791	5,985
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>104,677</u>	<u>149,004</u>
		154,468	154,989
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(19,596)</u>	<u>(20,671)</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)		134,872	134,318
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	9	(153,145)	(154,754)
Total net assets / (liabilities)		<u>743,215</u>	<u>734,454</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	10	610,380	621,029
Designated funds	10	2,500	52,500
Unrestricted funds	10	<u>130,336</u>	<u>60,925</u>
		<u>743,215</u>	<u>734,454</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

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations	7,373	0	7,373	4,989
	<u>7,373</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,373</u>	<u>4,989</u>

3 Income: Charitable Activities

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Grants Received		126,468	126,468	232,670
Unrestricted Grants	0		0	63,319
Café Sales	116,571		116,571	47,711
Shop Sales	8,617		8,617	998
Co-working	2,764		2,764	654
Room Hire	55,745		55,745	48,037
Other Trading	14,332		14,332	48,037
VAT Reclaim	45,734		45,734	0
	<u>243,763</u>	<u>126,468</u>	<u>370,232</u>	<u>441,425</u>

4 Investment Income

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Received	1,294		1,294	1,240
	<u>1,294</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,294</u>	<u>1,240</u>



Whitley Bay Big Local

Notes to the financial statements

5 Expenditure: Charitable Activities

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Project Delivery Costs	13,100	46,526	59,626	54,881
Cafe Expenses	48,156	0	48,156	20,628
Shop Expenses	1,715	1,685	3,400	385
Salaries and Wages	111,008	38,641	149,649	116,320
Employers NI	2,627	2,000	4,627	3,205
Employers Pensions	1,960	391	2,351	2,269
Loan Interest	13,532	1,000	14,532	14,695
Utilities	12,982	0	12,982	11,884
Facilities	18,205	41,802	60,007	19,546
Office Expense	7,046	0	7,046	8,634
Consultancy & Professional	2,345	0	2,345	13,830
Bank Charges	344	0	344	204
Depreciation Charge	0	5,073	5,073	4,330
Refurbishment	0	0	0	245,576
	<u>233,020</u>	<u>137,118</u>	<u>370,138</u>	<u>516,388</u>

6 Fixed Assets

	Freehold Building	Plant and Machinery	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	720,847	43,926	764,773
Additions	0	11,671	11,671
Disposals			0
At 31 March 2025	<u>720,847</u>	<u>55,597</u>	<u>776,444</u>
Depreciation	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	0	9,883	9,883
Charge for the year		5,073	5,073
At 31 March 2025	<u>0</u>	<u>14,956</u>	<u>14,956</u>
Net Book Value at 1 April 2024	<u>720,847</u>	<u>34,043</u>	<u>754,890</u>
Net Book Value at 31 March 2025	<u>720,847</u>	<u>40,641</u>	<u>761,488</u>

7 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
VAT Reclaim	43,952	0
Room hire	5,839	5,985
	<u>49,791</u>	<u>5,985</u>



Whitley Bay Big Local

Notes to the financial statements

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors & Accruals	0	1,000
PAYE & NI	2,568	1,789
Pension	510	363
Charity Bank Loan	16,518	17,520
	<u>19,596</u>	<u>20,671</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Charity Bank Loan	153,145	154,754

10 Movement in Funds

	Funds b/f	Income	Expenditure	Funds c/f
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds				
Big Local	9,031		(9,031)	0
Nothern Power Grid	11,782		(11,782)	0
VODA - Warm Hub	0	1,000	(1,000)	0
NTC	0	520	(520)	0
Energy Saving	0		0	0
Energy Redress	(94)	45,891	(45,891)	(93)
Comm Foundation - Newcastle BS	0	5,000	(5,000)	0
Comm Foundation - Mayor's Fund	0	8,900	0	8,900
Connecting Communities	0	4,000	(4,000)	0
albany Furniture	0	250	(250)	0
Main Grants	0	17,909	(17,909)	0
Food Partnership	0	415	(415)	0
Morrisons	0	8,000	(8,000)	0
Cathrine Cook	0	10,000	(10,000)	0
Access Reach Fund	0	9,583	(3,247)	6,336
BERNARD SUNLEY FOU BERNAR	0	5,000	(5,000)	0
THE CLOTHWORKERS F CLOTHW	0	7,500	(7,500)	0
Jolcy Trust	0	2,000	(2,000)	0
THE NEIGHBOURLY FO SAINSB	0	500	(500)	0
	<u>20,719</u>	<u>126,468</u>	<u>(132,045)</u>	<u>15,143</u>
Community Building	566,267		(5,073)	561,194
Plant and Machinery	34,043			34,043
	<u>600,310</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(5,073)</u>	<u>595,237</u>
Total Restricted Funds	<u>621,029</u>	<u>126,468</u>	<u>(137,118)</u>	<u>610,380</u>