

# **Acumen Community Buildings Ltd**

**Report and Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Charity number 1177852**

**Company number 10780847**

# **Acumen Community Buildings Ltd**

## **Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021**

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# **Acumen Community Buildings Ltd**

## **Directors and Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021**

### **Reference and administration details**

Charity name:	Acumen Community Buildings Ltd
Registered charity number	1177852
Company number	10780847
Registered office address	The Old Rectory The Broadway Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4BB

The trustees under charity law, who were also the directors under company law, who served during the period and up to the date of this report were:

Katherine Welch OBE DL (from 17.05.2017)

The Venerable Suzanne Pinnington MBE (from 01.10.2017 to 23.06.2021)

Dr Joanna Berry (from 10.05.2018)

Anne Toms (from 06.07.2018)

Dr Ron Lawson (from 23.06.2021)

Independent Examiner	Mr A. Chorlton
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### **Structure, governance and management**

Acumen Community Buildings is a company limited by guarantee (no 10780847) and a registered charity (no 1177852). The company was incorporated on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017. It was registered as a charity on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Directors are appointed by the members on a skills basis ensuring that all have a commitment to the area of work of the charity and the skills needed to deliver the strategic plan for the next period. There was one change to the Trustees during this financial year with Dr Ron Lawson, a local sculptor, artist and lecturer being appointed after an application process. The Venerable Suzanne Pinnington MBE who was formerly Rector of Houghton-le-Spring moved to take up the role of Archdeacon of Gwent and the Valleys. Sadly Sue died on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The board miss her inspiring presence and our thoughts and prayers are with her friends and family. We would like to express their thanks to Sue for her deep commitment to social change and the people and place of Houghton-le-Spring during her time in the area. During 2020-2021 the staffing of the charity was limited because of the Covid restrictions which forced the building leased by the charity to remain closed for long periods. A caretaker was appointed in October 2020 as the

building was reopened and thanks go to the volunteer board members who stepped up to provide support to keep the charity operational during periods of staff furlough and illness.

## **Objectives and activities**

The charity's object (object) is the promotion for the benefit of the public of urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and in particular in Sunderland coalfields and surrounding area) by all or any of the following means:

- (a) the relief of financial hardship:
- (b) the relief of unemployment:
- (c) the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience:
- (d) the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help: (i) in setting up their own business, or (ii) to existing businesses:
- (e) the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings, and/or land for use on favourable terms:
- (f) the provision of housing for those who are in conditions of need and the improvement of housing in the public sector or in charitable ownership provided that such power shall not extend to relieving any local authorities or other bodies of a statutory duty to provide or improve housing:
- (g) the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities:
- (h) the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance:
- (i) the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large or those who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities:
- (j) the protection or conservation of the environment:
- (k) the provision of public health facilities and childcare:
- (l) the promotion of public safety and prevention of crime:
- (m) such other means as may from time to time be determined subject to the prior written consent of the charity commissioners for England and Wales.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

## **Achievements and performance**

This fourth year of our activity has been challenging because of the Covid 19 restrictions which, as Sunderland was an area with a high rate of infections throughout the pandemic, have had a huge impact on our earned income from co-working spaces and room hire. We were able to use the outdoor space of Rectory Park which is the 7-acre garden area that used to be the landscaped gardens of The Old Rectory. Our gardening group, Bloomin Marvellous restarted once people were able to meet outside, and we made good use of a 19.1m Star Tent which we were able to purchase for outdoor activities ranging from yoga to carers craft events.

The remedial work on the chimneys, west bay window and downcomers was mainly completed during the year with thanks to funding from Suez Trust and a huge number of indoor improvements made including replacement of old light fittings with LEDs in some rooms and full health and safety, fire and electrical inspections of all parts of the building with the recommended remedial work being carried out. Full Covid risk assessments were in place and continually reviewed each time the rules changed.

We continued to support people in the area who were starting or had started social enterprises, and also continued our IT support remotely for those of our learners who wanted to continue. As the first lockdown ended, we were able to open up the offices and gradually were able to let the individual rooms again.

Small grants have been received from Sunderland City Council and Public Health as match for a crowdfund campaign to refurbish the Council Chamber furniture. Thanks to the generosity of the people of Houghton-le-Spring this enabled the tables, dais and gavel to be restored and made more flexible through the addition of extra legs and edges. The room can now be used for more activities and also placed back as it was in the 1950-1970s when desired. More Covid Grants were secured from Sunderland City Council and Power to Change support our loss of earned income with a Trading Income Support Scheme (TISS) grant. Project grants were received from The Coalfield Regeneration Trust for skills and employability support for 20 people and from RISE for physical activity. Arnold Clark Community Fund and Persimmon both gave small grants for Bloomin' Marvellous which enabled us to plant a new bed at the entrance to Rectory Park as well as buy some tools for maintaining other areas of the gardens.

We were privileged to be part of the Coop Foundation Connect programme and were able to share in community conversations with local people and participate in the learning events with others on the programme.

The ideas, information and thoughts that came from these conversations were all fed into our thinking and planning with Malcolm Fraser, Architect who is helping us develop the long-term plans for Rectory Park, The Old Rectory and the wider area around us in Houghton-le-Spring. Thanks to the Architectural Heritage Fund Cultural Recovery Grant and Comic Relief Business Support grant for funding this and other business and event planning support.

We hoped to end the year with our second Big Lunch event for the community on the first Saturday in June. Due to Covid this was postponed to National Thank You Day on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, when we were pleased to welcome over 1500 people from the local area to a great day of fun, food and friendship in the park. Lots of local groups worked with us to bring the event together and Houghton-le-Spring residents helped with over 35 volunteers. With National Lottery Community Funding we held a workshop with children to decorate "fairy jars" for the Light Up Rectory Park event which took place at Houghton Feast in October.

Although it has been a very tough year, we have made great strides in building relationships with smaller community groups in the area and are engaging with hundreds of people. The main themes emerging from people are mental health and wellbeing and children and young people. These will form the focus for our aim of being a catalyst for local social action in 2021-2022.

### **Financial review**

The trustees' policy in relation to reserves is to establish sufficient financial reserves to support the charity for at least a three-month period. This has been difficult to achieve during the year which was impacted by Covid to such an extent.

Earned income from office rental, room hire, and events has reduced because of Covid with grant funding increasing partly made up from Covid recovery funds and funding for refurbishment of The Grade II\* Old Rectory.

At the year end there was £38,439, in reserves of which £8,500 was restricted.

As this is the fourth year of operation of the Charitable Company this level of reserves is in line with the Trustees Reserves Policy of a minimum of three months operating costs with the small staffing levels at the end of the year.

### **Trustees' responsibilities in respect of the financial statements**

Company law requires the trustees, who are the directors under company law, to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company at the year end and of the net incoming/outgoing resources of the company for the year then ending. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies;
- 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 financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

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

### **Independent examiner**

The trustees have taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 in respect of the audit requirements for small companies and opted to have an independent examination in accordance with the Charities Act.

### **Small company special provisions**

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the trustees on 16 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Welch', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Katherine Welch OBE DL  
Director and Trustee

# Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

I report to the trustees of Acumen Community Buildings on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2021 set out on pages 8 to 14

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date 15 March 2022

Name

Mr A Chorlton

Address

7 Aiskell Street, Sunderland, SR4 7UH

# Acumen Community Buildings

## Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>	3				
Generated funds					
Voluntary income		1851		1851	
Activities for generating funds					
Investment income					1
Charitable activities		124765	54637	179402	81726
Other incoming resources		5400		5400	25
<i>Total incoming resources</i>		<b><u>132016</u></b>	<b><u>54637</u></b>	<b><u>186653</u></b>	<b><u>81751</u></b>
<b>Resources expended</b>	4				
Generation of voluntary income		-	-	-	
Charitable Activities		123481	46137	169619	66945
Governance costs		-	-	-	-
Other resources expended		3642	-	3642	
Depreciation		1854		1854	
<i>Total resources expended</i>		<b><u>128977</u></b>	<b><u>46137</u></b>	<b><u>175115</u></b>	<b><u>66945</u></b>
<b>Net income/expenditure (-) for the year</b>		<b><u>3039</u></b>	<b><u>8500</u></b>	<b><u>11538</u></b>	<b><u>14806</u></b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		14389	12116	26505	11699
Net movement in funds throughout year		<u>3039</u>	<u>8500</u>	<u>11538</u>	<u>14806</u>
Prior Year adjustment					
<i>Total funds carried forward</i>		<b><u>17428</u></b>	<b><u>20616</u></b>	<b><u>38044</u></b>	<b><u>26505</u></b>

All the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing and recognised gains and losses and movement on reserves are shown above.

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these accounts.



# Acumen Community Buildings

## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021

	Note	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	7	7008	1507
Depreciation		1854	
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>5154</b>	<b>1507</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	8	1117	11429
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>38439</u>	<u>17200</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>39556</b>	<b>28629</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>7958</u>	<u>3631</u>
Payroll Taxation		<u>1197</u>	
Wages		<u>(1889)</u>	
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>7266</b>	<b>3631</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>32290</b>	<b>30136</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>37444</b>	<b>26505</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			-
Provisions for liabilities and charges			-
<b>Net assets</b>		<b><u>37444</u></b>	<b><u>26505</u></b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>	11		
Restricted income funds		20616	12116
Unrestricted income funds	13	17428	14389
Prior Year Adjustment		<u>(600)</u>	
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<b><u>37444</u></b>	<b><u>26505</u></b>

For the financial year ended 30 June 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirement of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small company's regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Kate Welch OBE DL  
Director and Trustee

Date 16 March 2022

# Acumen Community Buildings

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

### Note 1: Basis of preparation

#### 1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) as applicable to Charities (effective January 2016) comprising the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities ("SORP 2015").

### Note 2: Accounting policies

#### 2.1 Incoming resources

##### 2.1.1 Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resource
- The trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

##### 2.1.2 Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

##### 2.1.3 Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

##### 2.1.4 Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

##### 2.1.5 Contractual income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

### 2.1.6 Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

### 2.1.7 Donated services and facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measureable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

### 2.1.8 Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

### 2.1.9 Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

## 2.2 Expenditure and liabilities

### 2.2.1 Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

### 2.2.2 Governance costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and costs of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

### 2.2.3 Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

## 2.3 Assets

### 2.3.1 Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

## Note 3 Analysis of incoming resources

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
<b>Grant Income</b>			
Grant –			
Crowdfund Match	6035	-	6035
Young Foundation	125	-	125
Power to Change	12000	-	12000
Coalfield Regeneration Trust		9990	9990
Suez Trust	-	14417	14417
RISE		2950	2950
Coop Foundation	11045		11045
Comic Relief		1000	1000
Architectural Heritage Fund		15780	15780
National Lottery Community Fund		10000	10000
Arnold Clark Community Persimmon	750	500	750
Sunderland City Council (Covid Restrictions)	52467		52467
DWP Kickstart	2511		2511
Job Retention Scheme	8151		8151
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b><u>93084</u></b>	<b><u>54637</u></b>	<b><u>147721</u></b>

## Note 4 Analysis of resources expended

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Staffing	47519	2950	50469
Sessional staff/Consultant	-	24280	24280
Administration/IT	12536	3990	16526
Refreshments	3	-	3
Consumables	-	-	-
Building Costs	63310	14917	78227
Charitable Expenditure	3642		3642
<b>Other Resources Expended</b>			
Bank Interest/Charges	113		113
Depreciation	1854		1854
Bad Debts			
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b><u>128977</u></b>	<b><u>46137</u></b>	<b><u>175115</u></b>

## **Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure**

- 5.1 Trustee expenses  
There were no trustee expenses during 2021.
- 5.2 There no fees for the examination of the accounts

# **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021**

## **Note 6 Paid employees**

During the year, the organisation employed one full time and one part time member of staff and bought in sessional time for administration and other activities

## **Note 7 Tangible fixed assets**

The company owns kitchen and office equipment valued in 2019 at £3013 with depreciation of £1506 from the previous year. This now fully depreciated.

The company own a star tent valued in 2020 at £2501 with depreciation of £347 during the year.

## **Note 8 Debtors and prepayments**

<b>Analysis of debtors</b>	2021 £
Debtors as per Sales ledger	1118
<i>Total</i>	<b><u>1118</u></b>

## **Note 9 Creditors and accruals**

<b>Analysis of creditors</b>	2021 £
Creditors as per purchase ledger	8009
<i>Total</i>	<b><u>8009</u></b>

## **Note 10 Transactions and related parties**

There were no transactions between related parties

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

## Note 11 Movements on funds

	Fund balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer between funds	Fund balance c/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Suez Trust	12116	14417	26533	0	0
Coalfield Regeneration Trust	0	9990	9990	0	0
RISE	0	2950	2950	0	0
Comic Relief		1000	1000	0	0
Architectural Heritage Fund		15780	15780	0	0
National Lottery Community Fund		10000	1500	0	8500
Persimmon		500	500	0	0
<b>Total funds</b>	<b><u>12116</u></b>	<b><u>54637</u></b>	<b><u>58253</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>8500</u></b>

## Note 12 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Fixed assets	5154	-	5154
Net current assets	23790	8500	32290
<b>Total assets</b>	<b><u>28944</u></b>	<b><u>8500</u></b>	<b><u>37444</u></b>

## Liability of Members

The liability of members is limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up during the period of membership, members would be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.