

Acumen Community Buildings Ltd

**Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024**

Charity number 1177852

Company number 10780847

Acumen Community Buildings Ltd

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Acumen Community Buildings Ltd

Directors and Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024

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)
Dr Joanna Berry (from 10.05.2018)
Anne Toms (from 06.07.2018)
Dr Ron Lawson (from 23.06.2021)

Independent Examiner	Mr R Maddison MBA
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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 20th May 2017. It was registered as a charity on 6th 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 were no changes to the Trustees during this financial year. The trustees met face to face or with hybrid meetings in this year. During 2023-24 the charity was still recruiting staff and volunteers as well as letting rooms to other charities and social enterprises and developing activities to meet community need.

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 seventh year of our activity has been a time of steady and consistent growth in the charitable activities including more earned income through rental income from charities and social enterprises and contracts for the delivery of youth activities, digital inclusion, arts and cultural activity and mental health support. It has continued to be challenging because of the ever increasing demand for services, the cost of living crisis, the residual impact of the Covid pandemic and the rise in energy costs. All of these had an impact on our income and expenditure but resulted in a year where we have been able to deliver a surplus.

The building has been fully operational for the period although the Centre Manager, who was a local person recruited in August 2021 ended up resigning due to ill health early in the financial year. Our events and activities co-ordinator has continued to develop her skills and take part in training for a Level 3 Education and Training Award but left us in December when she moved away from the area. This post was replaced with a Volunteer and Activities Co-ordinator role. This post has been able to be sustained through earned income and small grant alongside a new part time post of a Heritage and Culture Co-ordinator. We went through a redundancy consultation in late Spring as we needed to ensure that we were financially sustainable for the coming year. The full time post of Youth Co-ordinator was declared as redundant although we have been able to maintain our youth provision through other paid posts, paid sessional workers and volunteers whilst maintaining safeguarding and receiving good feedback on our quality of provision from Together for Children.

We continued to support people in the area who were starting or had started social enterprises, encouraging them to become part of our co-working community. The tenants in the building work closely together and are truly an enterprising community. We now have a great cluster of organisations working together to make a difference in the Sunderland Coalfields area around Houghton-le-Spring which are part of the County Durham and the Coalfields Social Enterprise Place.

We have a full weekly calendar of activities to address physical and mental health and wellbeing as well as social isolation for adults and have around 350 people using the building every week including our new Tuesday Trekkers walking group which has at least 25 people plus dogs taking part each week. We also run many other activities on a less frequent basis such as a drumming circle, heritage research group and courses ranging from crochet and wreath making to employment and skills.

As a catalyst for local social action we work in partnership with local groups including many who are part of our co-working community. Between us we have regular cycling and Karting for people with disabilities and Learn to ride for young people led by Gateway Wheelers and SNS Cycling, Kids in The Park run by Houghton-le-Soring residents, regular craft and therapy sessions run by HOPS and events led by Recovery Connections, Space 4 and cultural spring that use Rectory Park and engage all sections of our community.

We have been able to maintain a consistent youth offer with an after school drop in, two youth clubs and the Holiday and Food Activity Programme for 11-16 year olds. This has high levels of engagement with 320 places over the summer and good quality feedback from Together for Children. We have seen a decrease in anti-social behaviour with almost no graffiti and no damage to The Old Rectory Building or Rectory Park. Young people are keen to engage and we are providing a much needed service in an area that has not had a youth work offer for many years.

We are now leading on many larger community events with Rectory Park and The Old Rectory being the centre of the Houghton Feast events on the first Saturday, lighting up Rectory Park with illuminations including the Coronation badge for 2023, hosting the traditional Ox Roast, the model fairground, leading the Houghton Feast Parade with the support of the 41 Club and supporting the Houghton-le-Soring Residents with Kids in the Park and the after parade entertainment.

We have recently recruited a new trustee who is a chartered surveyor with experience of historic building projects and are working with local architects with experience of church buildings to develop our plans. We are through the initial stage of funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund to do a feasibility study which we are pursuing during this next year alongside a first stage of assessment for the VCSE Energy Efficiency Grant. We are now certified as Carbon Literate through the Heritage Trust Network and

We are working with Sunderland Council to address the lease of The Old Rectory. We initially took the commercial lease for the building as it was offered on that basis. That has been challenging as with the closure for the Covid pandemic and subsequent large increases in energy costs it has been difficult to pay the rent. A business case was presented to the Council and a course of action agreed where we have surrendered the commercial lease. Moved to a tenancy at will and then go through a process of making a case for a community asset transfer as the building is being used entirely for community benefit.

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. As we made a small surplus this year we have been able to start to build back our reserves and as we have been able to reduce some costs this brings us much closer to that level.

At the yearend there was £38,257 in reserves of which £14,310 was restricted.

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 15/11/24 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in dark 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 2024 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 R.J.Maddison Date 15 November 2024

Name Mr R J Maddison MBA

Acumen Community Buildings

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023 £
Incoming resources	3				
Generated funds					
Voluntary income		148	-	148	340
Activities for generating funds					
Investment income		52	-	52	
Charitable activities		105710	41290	147000	139348
Other incoming resources		3215	-	3215	3404
<i>Total incoming resources</i>		<u>109125</u>	<u>41290</u>	<u>150415</u>	<u>143092</u>
Resources expended	4				
Generation of voluntary income		-	-	-	
Charitable Activities		111137	26980	138117	171144
Governance costs					-
Other resources expended		3103		3103	7955
Depreciation		2779		2779	3506
<i>Total resources expended</i>		<u>117019</u>	<u>26980</u>	<u>143999</u>	<u>182605</u>
Net income/expenditure (-) for the year		<u>-7894</u>	<u>14310</u>	<u>6416</u>	<u>-39513</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		31841	0	31841	71354
Net movement in funds throughout year		<u>-7894</u>	<u>14310</u>	<u>6416</u>	<u>-39513</u>
Prior Year adjustment					
<i>Total funds carried forward</i>		<u>23947</u>	<u>14310</u>	<u>38257</u>	<u>31841</u>

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 15 form part of these accounts.

Acumen Community Buildings

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

	Note	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	3779	7285
Depreciation		2779	3506
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		1000	3779
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	23789	6386
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>23857</u>	<u>23296</u>
<i>Total current assets</i>		47693	29682
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>2695</u>	<u>300</u>
Payroll Taxation		<u>5652</u>	<u>1320</u>
Wages		<u>88</u>	
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		8436	1620
<i>Net current assets</i>		40257	28062
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>			31841
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		<u>2000</u>	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges			-
<i>Net assets</i>		<u>38257</u>	<u>31841</u>
The funds of the charity	11		
Restricted income funds		14310	0
Unrestricted income funds	12	23947	31841
Prior Year Adjustment			
<i>Total charity funds</i>		<u>38257</u>	<u>31841</u>

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024 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 15 November 2024

Acumen Community Buildings

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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 2024

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 2024

Note 3 Analysis of incoming resources

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Grant Income			
Electrical Safety First		4840	4840
Home Instead		250	250
Mackem Money		2000	2000
Violence Reduction Unit		2600	2600
National Survivor Grant		600	600
NHS Child Health		5000	5000
Sir James Knott		5000	5000
Greatham Hospital		1000	1000
National Lottery CF		20000	5690
Total incoming resources	<u>0</u>	<u>41290</u>	<u>41290</u>

Note 4 Analysis of resources expended

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Charitable activities			
Staffing	69343	5328	74671
Sessional staff/Consultant	7336		7336
Administration/IT	10454	3500	13954
Refreshments	1592	3100	4692
Consumables	712		712
Building Costs	6594	2700	9294
Charitable Expenditure	14987	12352	27339
Other Resources Expended			
Bank Interest/Charges	119		119
Depreciation	2779		2779
Bad Debts	3103		3103
Total resources expended	<u>117019</u>	<u>26980</u>	<u>143999</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

- 5.1 Trustee expenses
There were no trustee expenses during 2024
- 5.2 There no fees for the examination of the accounts

Note 6 Paid employees

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

Note 7 Tangible fixed assets

The company owns kitchen, office equipment and a star tent valued at £3506 at the start of the year with depreciation of £2779 during the year.

Note 8 Debtors and prepayments

Analysis of debtors	2024 £
Debtors as per Sales ledger	23789
<i>Total</i>	<u>23789</u>

Note 9 Creditors and accruals

Analysis of creditors	2024 £
Creditors as per purchase ledger	2695
<i>Total</i>	<u>2695</u>

Note 10 Transactions and related parties

There were no transactions between related parties

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 11 Movements on funds

	Fund balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer between funds	Fund balance c/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Electrical Safety First		4840	4840		
Home Instead		250	250		
Mackem Money		2000	2000		
Violence Reduction Unit		2600	2600		
National Survivor Grant		600	600		
NHS Child Health		5000	5000		
Sir James Knott		5000	5000		
Greatham Hospital		1000	1000		
National Lottery CF		20000	5690		14310
Total funds	<u>0</u>	<u>41290</u>	<u>26980</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14310</u>

Note 12 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Fixed assets	1000	-	1000
Net current assets	24947	14310	39257
Long Term creditors	2000		2000
Total assets	<u>23947</u>	<u>14310</u>	<u>38257</u>

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.