



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 April 2024 Period start date To 31 March 2025 Period end date

Charity name: The Witham Hub

Charity registration number: 1188048

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To reduce food poverty and food waste and offer social inclusion to all
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Overview</p> <p>We are pleased to present our latest Trustee Report, highlighting the significant achievements and developments within our organisation over the past year. Our commitment to serving the community and reducing food waste has never been stronger, and we are proud to share the progress we have made with our stakeholders.</p> <p>One of our most notable achievements this year has been the successful transition to the Grove Centre, which has proven to be a tremendous success, resulting in a huge increase in footfall. The new location has significantly improved our visibility and provided the additional space and facilities required to better support and serve our community. This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff and volunteers, whose commitment has been instrumental in making the move and ongoing operations run smoothly.</p> <p>Building on this success, in May 2024, we identified a new premises in Braintree, which we hope to secure a lease on and have operational at the start of the next financial year. This decision was driven by need, based on the number of Braintree residents currently travelling to Witham to access our services. The new facility will serve as a community supermarket and tearoom, providing both affordable food options and a welcoming space for local</p>

		<p>residents. The planning and preparation for this expansion are already benefiting from the enthusiasm and support of our staff and volunteers, who continue to be at the heart of our mission to serve the community.</p> <p>Community Initiatives</p> <p>We remain firmly committed to our mission of providing affordable food options and supporting local residents. Our core initiatives, including the provision of discounted food and the community fridge, continue to thrive.</p> <p>During the year, we established partnerships with new suppliers, helping to ensure a more reliable and consistent supply of fresh produce for community members.</p> <p>We are proud to report that our community fridge continues to be collected from six days and nights a week, thanks to the dedication of our outstanding volunteers. Their tireless efforts have resulted in the successful saving of over 350 tonnes of food from landfill, delivering both vital community support and significant environmental benefits.</p> <p>Impact on the Community</p> <p>Our impact this year has been significant, with over 500,000 interventions recorded, almost three times the number reported last year. This increase reflects the continued and growing demand for our services and places additional pressure on our resources. Despite these challenges, our staff and volunteers have worked diligently to respond effectively, ensuring that those who need support are able to access timely and appropriate assistance.</p> <p>Funding and Support</p> <p>We are extremely grateful for the key funding awards secured in 2023, which continue to strengthen our ability to support the community.</p> <p>We secured £100,000 over two years from Cadent Gas, enabling us to assist community members with completing essential forms and accessing vital services. This funding has allowed us to</p>
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		<p>employ two dedicated staff members to deliver this important work.</p> <p>We were also successful in securing £250,000 of ring-fenced funding from the National Lottery, to be allocated over five years in support of staffing costs. This funding is crucial in helping us maintain a skilled and resilient workforce, ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality services.</p> <p>We remain grateful for the ongoing support of Essex County Council, who provide £15,000 per year, ring-fenced to contribute towards the rent of our premises.</p> <p>While securing additional funding remains an ongoing challenge, our fundraising team works tirelessly, and we are deeply appreciative of the continued generosity of our local community, charitable organisations, and business partners, whose support enables us to sustain and grow our services.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>As we move forward, we remain focused on expanding our initiatives and enhancing our services to meet the growing needs of our community. We are excited about the future and are committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees are committed to all directions given by the charity commission and will endeavour to comply with them at all times.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Our volunteers are the backbone of our organisation, and their dedication and commitment have been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals this year. From collecting and distributing food to supporting community initiatives, they

		<p>ensure our services run smoothly and efficiently.</p> <p>This year, our volunteers have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected and redistributed over 50 tonnes of food, helping to prevent waste and provide essential supplies to those in need. • Supported the community fridge six days and nights a week, ensuring fresh food reaches local residents consistently. • Assisted in the operation of our Witham premises, helping to welcome visitors, manage stock, and provide friendly support. • Participated in planning and preparation for our new Braintree facility, contributing ideas and effort to help expand our services. • Engaged in fundraising, awareness campaigns, and administrative support, providing vital capacity that enables our staff to focus on service delivery. <p>The impact of their time, skills, and energy cannot be overstated. Their efforts not only enhance the lives of our community members but also strengthen our organisational resilience and sustainability. We are continually inspired by the generosity and commitment of our volunteers, who remain at the heart of everything we do.</p>
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Over the past year, our charity has made significant progress in delivering on its mission to support the local community, reduce food waste, and provide affordable access to essential resources, all while managing on a limited budget. Key achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of Premises and Services: Successfully moved to a new premises in Witham, increasing footfall by 800%, improving visibility, and providing enhanced facilities to better serve the community. Plans are underway to open a new community supermarket and tea room in Braintree, extending our reach to residents who previously had to travel to Witham. • Support to Beneficiaries: Delivered over 500,000 interventions, almost triple last year's figures, helping residents access affordable food, essential supplies, and support services. This demonstrates the charity's direct impact on improving the wellbeing and quality of life for local people. • Food Waste Reduction: Volunteers collected and redistributed over 550 tonnes of food, preventing it from going to landfill, supporting sustainability, and providing nutritious food to those in need. • Volunteer and Staff Contribution: Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers have been central to every achievement, from daily operations to planning future expansions, ensuring the delivery of high-quality services and fostering a strong sense of community. <p>Difference Made to Beneficiaries: Through our initiatives, beneficiaries have gained access to affordable, high-quality food, support in navigating essential services, and welcoming community spaces. Our work has reduced financial and social pressures on individuals and families, improving health, wellbeing, and social inclusion.</p>

		<p>Wider Benefits to Society:</p> <p>By preventing food waste, promoting sustainability, and fostering volunteer engagement, the charity contributes to environmental protection, strengthens community cohesion, and supports a resilient local society. Our initiatives demonstrate a model of community-led support that benefits not only immediate recipients but also the broader social and environmental fabric.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>Last year we set a goal to expand to another Hub in another nearby town. Grants are always hard to find but we are working hard to secure long term sponsorships.</p>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>We are in the final stages of securing the lease to a lease in Braintree which should be operational in the new financial year. Grants are more difficult to come by but we are working hard to sure any that become available.</p> <p>We work hard to raise funds organically as possible to avoid reliance on grant due to shrinking grant pots.</p>

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>The Charity has reported income in the year amounting to £224,882 (2024: £185,141)</p> <p>Grant income has increased in the year and this has allowed the services we provide to grow and the amount of people we reach to increase.</p> <p>The Charity now has a prime location in Witham and this has increased footfall, and the community fridge income has thrived because of it.</p> <p>Rent costs are increasing for the Charity, but thanks to Cadent and Essex County Council, we have been granted some monies towards the costs.</p> <p>During the year, money has been spent on obtaining a new premises in Braintree and provided the fixtures and fittings for the new rental space. The space officially opened at the start of the next financial year and we hope to see an increase in community fridge income as the Charity establishes itself in Braintree.</p> <p>Although the Charity has made a loss in the year of £17,967, this was expected due to the costs in relation to the new premises which will not generate any income until 25/26.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Charity aims to hold £10,000 in available reserves in order to continue for the next financial year. The Charity plans to review this next year as it grows.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The total reserves of the Charity are £67,245. The total unrestricted available reserves are £17,138 and the total restricted reserves are £50,107.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	No uncertainties exist about the Charity continuing as a going concern.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Like all charities we are looking for funding all the time, our biggest concern is these funding streams being harder to access but we are optimistic we can find a way to support those who need us.
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<p>Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of two years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.</p> <p>In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity must have skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.</p>

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Witham Hub
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1188048
Charity's principal address	17, The Grove Centre, Witham, Essex CM8 2YT

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tina Townsend	Chair		
2	Stuart Gulleford			
3	Sara Douth			
4	Ian Boorman			

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	TINA TOWNSEND	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR - TRUSTEE	
Date	28.01.26	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Witham Hub

1188048

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2024

To

31/03/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Appeals and donations (including Community Fridge)	79,970	1,555	-	81,525	61,711
Grants	15,000	126,100	-	141,100	111,125
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	699
Interest income	842	-	-	842	446
Meeting room rental	183	-	-	183	6,327
Other revenue	1,232	-	-	1,232	814
Consulting	-	-	-	-	3,000
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	1,019
<i>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</i>	97,227	127,655	-	224,882	185,141
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	97,227	127,655	-	224,882	185,141
A3 Payments					
Food support	7,871	6,336	-	14,207	5,949
Rent	15,029	29,358	-	44,387	33,555
Rates & Water	385	-	-	385	3,716
Light, Heat & Power	8,686	-	-	8,686	20,134
Repairs and Maintenance	14,885	-	-	14,885	7,077
Telephone & Fax	1,527	-	-	1,527	1,482
Computer costs	2,689	-	-	2,689	1,293
Printing, postage and stationery	716	-	-	716	289
Subscriptions	7,117	-	-	7,117	5,998
Sundry expenses	571	-	-	571	238
COVID-19 costs	-	-	-	-	6
Legal and professional fees	8,876	-	-	8,876	35
Shop Equipment, consumables, arts & crafts	11,871	-	-	11,871	4,606
Waste Collection	1,404	-	-	1,404	1,155
Accountancy	4,111	-	-	4,111	360
Insurance	2,101	-	-	2,101	2,319
Bank fees	548	-	-	548	441
Entertainment	1,299	-	-	1,299	575
Staff training	3,174	-	-	3,174	526
Direct expenses	11,163	1,555	-	12,718	5,673
External Counsellors	2,637	1,905	-	4,542	869
Fundraising expenses	-	-	-	-	55
Advertising and marketing	2,127	-	-	2,127	42
Salaries and Pension costs	-	84,229	-	84,229	39,842
Travel expenses	1,996	-	-	1,996	174
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	110,783	123,383	-	234,166	136,409

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Fixtures and fittings	8,683	-	-	8,683	5,190
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	8,683	-	-	8,683	5,190
Total payments	119,466	123,383	-	242,849	141,599
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 22,239	4,272	-	- 17,967	43,542
A5 Transfers between funds	- 2,541	2,541	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	39,377	45,835	-	85,212	41,670
Cash funds this year end	14,597	52,648	-	67,245	85,212

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank accounts	14,572	52,648	-
	Petty Cash	25		-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,597	52,648	-


(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Accountancy fees 2025	Unrestricted	1,655	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Tina Townsend	28.01.26



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

The Witham Hub

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1188048

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Signed:

Mark Pearson

Date:

30th Jan 2026

Name:

Mark Pearson FCA

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

c/o Lambert Chapman LLP, 3 Warners Mill, Silks Way, Braintree, Essex,
CM7 3GB