

Brereton Big Local CIO
Registered Charity Number 1197599

Report and Accounts
for the period
1st March 2023 to 29th February 2024

Brereton Big Local CIO
Registered Charity Number 1197599

Trustees Annual Report for the period
1st March 2023 to 28th February 2024

Purposes of the Charity

To develop the skills and capacity of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of Brereton Staffordshire, in such a way that they are better able to identify and help meet their needs and to participate more fully in society.

The promotion for the public of urban and rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation.

The maintenance improvement provision of public amenities, the provision of recreational facilities, the protection of the environment and the promotion of social inclusion.

Main Charitable Activities

The charity provides direct resident support through provision of service such as a community shop, youth engagement, help for the isolated, improvement of the local environment, therapeutic services facilitation of community grants and the provision of local events to bring the community together. It operates from a community hub of Armitage road, Brereton, Rugeley and supports a number of residents groups using that facility.

Public Benefit

The trustees work to ensure that the charity creates public benefit for the residents of Brereton in accordance with Charity Commission guidance through consultation, assessment of need and linking spend and the provision of services and activities to that identified local need to improve the lives of local people and the quality of local facilities.

Policy on Grant Making

The charity makes a small number of grants to other local groups on the basis of their contribution to the benefit of local people. The charity invests in local facilities and in particular Ravenhill Park, the potential of our young people through our youth groups and in enabling disadvantaged residents to access therapy and training. The charity is reliant on and grateful for the dedication of our staff, the valuable assistance of our volunteers and the support of local businesses.

Summary of Main Achievements

While Brereton Million has existed as a local community group and CIC status since 2015 this was the second year as a registered charity. We have continued to build upon our initial focus of creating policies and procedures for the charity, strengthening the trustee body, and the practicalities of employing staff and managing finance now we are an independent charity.

During the year the activities of two local community groups, with whom the trustees work closely, were taken into the charity: the Vysions youth service and BRACE which organises Brereton Carnival and other local events.

The trustees have continued the development of the Vysions youth service providing a range of activities particularly school holiday programmes and strengthening the young person voice and engagement. We are proud that so many of our young people are in leadership positions in the group and that members set the overall direction and the detail of individual activities. Many local businesses and community groups supported the holiday programmes with principle funding coming from Staffordshire County Council. Our youth worker and adult volunteers have dealt with a number of problems of anti-social behaviour in the area liaising with the local police team and schools. The trust built up with local young people mean that trends in knife possession, gang activity and drug use are quickly identified. Vysions has a particular focus on those young people who may be struggling with self-esteem and relationship issues and those out of school or at risk of exclusion. BRACE, our events sub-group, organised Brereton Carnival and other local events.

The other service improvement was the development of the Community Shop which was brought into being quickly at the end of the previous year by staff giving up their office and storage space and the determination of volunteers. The Community Shop continued to grow in impact increasing the number of members and visits to the shop and supporting many needy local families showing the number of families struggling with the cost of living. The shop now has over 100 members and is open twice a week. There is no question it is meeting a serious local need and shows the number of families struggling with the cost of living.

Brereton Big Local CIO also provides benefit advice and budgeting to local people struggling with finances. The charity continued to maintain and improve the facilities in Ravenhill Park for the benefit of local people including improvements to the Woodland Walk and creation of planters. We play an important role advocating on behalf of those who use the park to the local authority parks department. The charity continued to provide therapeutic service to a number of vulnerable local people through craft activities, gardening and horse therapy. Vulnerable local people were also supported through befriending, advocacy and assistance such as shopping and transport to hospital appointments. Poor local public transport alongside as the impact of the rising cost of living continue to be key challenges for vulnerable local people and disadvantaged families.

The charity works closely with local schools, statutory agencies particularly local doctor's surgeries, local charities and churches for the benefit of local people.

The charity provided a number of activities to promote the health and wellbeing of local people such as healthy eating advice, helping those who are socially isolated, exercise and opportunities to enjoy local nature, support for local families and managing debt. This comes under the Brereton Can campaign linked to the wider Cannock Chase Can programme. The charity advocates for local people in respect of local services and facilities and such issues as planning applications. The charity has also funded local groups of residents to organise their own community building activities in their immediate neighbourhood. A number of community events were organised such as the Halloween Lantern Parade.

The trustees continue to maintain the Community Hub for the benefit of local people. Work was undertaken to create an office area for our staff and deal with plumbing, heating and drainage issues. A range of different local groups have used the hall and it has also been used for children's parties and community meetings

Our community worker Sue Merriman is at the heart of the charity's work and trustees are very grateful for her unstinting efforts and extensive understanding of the needs of local people and her relationship with so many local people, businesses and groups. She is fine example of the sort of local community activism which is vital for maximising the potential and life skills of local people.

Financial Statement

Brereton Big Local CIO is the Locally Trusted Organisation for Brereton Million in respect of the National Lottery Big Local programme. The charity is delivering the activities set out in the Big Local Plan submitted to Local Trust in spring 2022. The Plan sets out a budget for the remainder of the £1million of funding made available to the local community over a ten-year period (which ends in September 2025).

Restricted grant fund income in this financial period has primarily been from Local Trust, a grant of £146950 (2022/23 £77854.53). The charity also received Charitable Giving of £1000 restricted for the Community Shoppe (2022/23 £3000 restricted grant from the Hubub Foundation for the Community Shop). The charity received other funding from fees to manage the Local Trust Grant, unrestricted grants and donations, sales from the Community Shop, income from events, and fees for delivering charitable services (craft activities and venue hire). Total income for the year is £181674.92 (2022/23 £86373.88)

Expenditure for the year is £165576.17 (2022/23 £45183.31), leaving a surplus of £16098.75 (2022/23 £41190.57).

Assets, Reserves and Assessment of Risk

At 29th February 2024, closing unrestricted fund reserves are £24312.62 (2022/23 £5524.20).

The closing restricted fund balance is £32976.70 (2022/23 £35666.37) relating solely to Local Trust Big Local Programme.

The principle asset owned by the charity is the Brereton Community Hub which is used as a base for activities in the community.

There are no risks for the charity as a going concern for the forthcoming 12-month period. Unrestricted funds are growing: The balance of £24312.62 at 29th February 2024 is over one and a half year of operating expenditure. Restricted grant funding has been secured to 30th September 2025.

The principal risk for the charity is the future funding strategy at the end of the National Lottery funding and so work is underway to identify future funding sources and fully understand the challenges that this will present.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a constitution approved by the Charity Commission. Trustees are identified through our network of local supporters and volunteers and open advertisement and recruitment events. The trustees meet each month as a body and have a number of sub groups on particular issues.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name Brereton Million Big Local CIO

Registered Charity Number 1197599

101 Armitage Road, Rugeley Staffordshire WS15 1DF

Trustees

Jack Burkinshaw Chair

Peter Fahy Vice Chair

Sam Rushton

Christine Stewart

Mat Walker

Maria Smith

Staff

Sue Merriman Community Development Worker

Emily May Volunteer Coordinator

Debbie Thatcher Administrative Assistant

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Brereton Big Local CIO
(Registered Charity Number 1197599)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Brereton Big Local CIO (the Trust), for the year ending 29th February 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 (*other*) matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no other 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.

Vanessa Hands
29 Daywell Rise
Rugeley
Staffordshire
WS15 2RE

Dated: 7th April 2025

BRERETON BIG LOCAL CIO
Registered Charity No.1197599

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 29th February 2024

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
MONETARY ASSETS				
Deposits and Bank Balances				
Deposit Account	24312.62	11483.78	35796.40	38218.10
Current Account		20092.23	20092.23	2735.13
Petty Cash		207.66	207.66	155.94
Crafters Float		100.00	100.00	81.40
Shop Float		1093.03	1093.03	
	24312.62	32976.70	57289.32	41190.57

Debtors

Lettings due but not received

Creditors

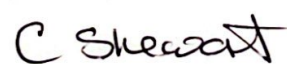
Bills payable	62.63	
Due to NEST	188.00	122.85

NON MONETARY ASSETS

Community Hub, fixtures and fittings
Defibrillator
Tables and chairs
Sports Equipment
Kitchen Equipment
Cleaning materials
Craft Materials

Signed 
Chair of Trustees

Date 8th April 2025.

Signed 
Treasurer

Date 8 April 2025

BRERETON BIG LOCAL CIO
Registered Charity No.1197599

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 29th February 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	2023/24 Restricted Funds	Total	2022/23 Total
INCOME				
From Trading Activities				
Hub Lettings	1141.50		1141.50	865.50
Community Shop Income	16195.20		16195.20	
Grant management fees	7347.50		7347.50	3892.73
Other fees	632.00		632.00	430.20
Other Income				
Donations	3194.83	1000.00	4194.83	330.92
Government Grants		146950.00	146950.00	77854.53
Other Grants	2296.64		2296.64	3000.00
Fundraising and event income	2917.25		2917.25	
Interest from Assets			0.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	33724.92	147950.00	181674.92	86373.88
PAYMENTS				
Charitable Activities				
Staff		46642.26	46642.26	24676.12
Community Shop Costs	12924.37		12924.37	2995.15
Other Project Costs	476.93	26821.63	27298.56	8600.06
Repairs and Maintenance		991.42	991.42	425.66
Equipment and equipment rental		1011.40	1011.40	1813.83
Energy		7571.81	7571.81	2215.86
Water and sewage		174.47	174.47	187.44
Cleaning Supplies		144.46	144.46	30.00
Insurance		1192.79	1192.79	859.22
Licence PPS/PPL		231.03	231.03	
Telephone		522.40	522.40	289.69
Internet		720.00	720.00	300.00
Refreshments		901.80	901.80	269.80
Administration of the Charity				
Website and branding		382.62	382.62	86.40
Office Supplies		762.48	762.48	336.96
Professional Fees		1103.00	1103.00	435.00
Governance costs		60.00	60.00	
HR advice		93.60	93.60	153.60
Printing and Stationery		169.49	169.49	56.82
Publications	1420.00	462.89	1882.89	
Volunteer Expenses		410.26	410.26	13.60
Venue Hire		462.50	462.50	
Other Expenditure				
Hub Refurbishment		52107.25	52107.25	1015.00
New Equipment		148.14	148.14	264.00
Event costs		7526.97	7526.97	159.10
Miscellaneous	115.20	25.00	140.20	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	14936.50	150639.67	165576.17	45183.31
NET SURPLUS/(-DEFICIT)	18788.42	-2689.67	16098.75	41190.57
Transfer between Funds			0.00	0.00
Balances Brought Forward	5524.20	35666.37	41190.57	0.00
Balances Carried Forward	24312.62	32976.70	57289.32	41190.57