

**Brereton Big Local CIO**  
**Registered Charity Number 1197599**

**Report and Accounts**  
**for the period**  
**1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Brereton Big Local CIO**  
**Registered Charity Number 1197599**

**Trustees Annual Report for the period**  
**1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**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 third 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 Visions youth service which offers holiday programs and activities, and BRACE which organises Brereton Carnival and other local events.

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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. The trustees have also begun to develop the services for young people who are neurodivergent to ensure they can be included in the activities Vysions provides. 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, as well as seasonal fundraising events such as the Santa tour and the Christmas Tree Wishes.

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, community meetings and activities throughout the year.



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 ended in September 2025).

Restricted grant fund income in this financial period has primarily been from Local Trust, a grant of £203233 (2023/24 £146950). The charity also received £8236 restricted grant from Staffordshire County Council for staff wages. The charity also received Charitable Giving of £1000 restricted for the Community Shop (2023/24 £1000 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 £310641.01 (2023/24 £181674.92)

Expenditure for the year is £158799.11 (2023/24 £165576.17) which has seen increased expenditure for event costs throughout the year being £62017.13 (2023/24 £7526.97), as well as a reduction in expenditure for hub refurbishment being £5204.00 (2023/24 £52107.25) as the work surrounding the new office now complete. This leaves a surplus of £151841.90 (2023/24 £16098.75) for the year.

### **Assets, Reserves and Assessment of Risk**

At 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025, closing unrestricted fund reserves are £53707.30 (2023/24 £24312.62).

The closing restricted fund balance is £155423.92 (2023/24 £32976.70) 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 £53707.30 at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 is over four years of operating expenditure. Restricted grant funding has been secured to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

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

**BRERETON BIG LOCAL CIO**  
Registered Charity No.1197599

**Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 29th February 2025**

	<b>2024/ 25</b>		<b>2023/ 24</b>	
	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>From Trading Activities</b>				
Hub Lettings	1284.50		1284.50	1141.50
Community Shop Income	14119.60		14119.60	16195.20
Grant management fees	10161.63		10161.63	7347.50
Other fees	940.67		940.67	632.00
<b>Other Income</b>				
Donations	3816.01	0.00	3816.01	4194.83
Government Grants		267668.18	267668.18	146950.00
Other Grants	1000.00	1,350.00	2350.00	2296.64
Fundraising and event income	7800.42		7800.42	2917.25
Insurance Claim	2500.00		2500.00	0.00
<b>Interest from Assets</b>			0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>41622.83</b>	<b>269018.18</b>	<b>310641.01</b>	<b>181674.92</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Staff		43083.38	43083.38	46642.26
Community Shop Costs	11494.354		11494.35	12924.37
Other Project Costs	301.80	17718.21	18020.01	27298.56
Repairs and Maintenance		880.00	880.00	991.42
Equipment and equipment rental		4474.89	4474.89	1011.40
Energy		6780.32	6780.32	7571.81
Water and sewage		244.67	244.67	174.47
Cleaning Supplies		0.00	0.00	144.46
Insurance		1286.46	1286.46	1192.79
Licence PRS/PPL		398.04	398.04	231.03
Telephone		503.15	503.15	522.40
Internet		720.00	720.00	720.00
Refreshments		45.35	45.35	901.80
<b>Administration of the Charity</b>				
Website, Communication and branding		200.00	200.00	382.62
Office Supplies		629.43	629.43	762.48
Professional Fees		880.00	880.00	1103.00
Governance costs		0.00	0.00	60.00
HRadvice		0.00	0.00	93.60
Printing and Stationery		60.28	60.28	169.49
Publications	432.00		432.00	1882.89
Volunteer Expenses		779.97	779.97	410.26
Venue Hire		153.00	153.00	462.50
<b>Other Expenditure</b>				
Hub Refurbishment		5204.00	5204.00	52107.25
New Equipment		480.00	480.00	148.14
Event costs		62017.13	62017.13	7526.97
Miscellaneous		32.68	32.68	140.20
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>12228.15</b>	<b>146570.96</b>	<b>158799.11</b>	<b>165576.17</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/ (-DEFICIT)</b>	<b>29394.68</b>	<b>122447.22</b>	<b>151841.90</b>	<b>16098.75</b>
Transfer between Funds			0.00	0.00
Balances Brought Forward	24312.62	32976.70	57289.32	41190.57
Balances Carried Forward	<b>53707.30</b>	<b>155423.92</b>	<b>209131.22</b>	<b>57289.32</b>



BRERETON BIG LOCAL CIO  
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 29th February 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	2025 Restricted Funds	Total	2024 Total
<b>MONETARY ASSETS</b>				
<b>Deposits and Bank Balances</b>				
Current Account	53707.30	23246.06	76953.36	20092.23
Second Account		130249.32	130249.32	35796.40
Petty Cash		210.27	210.27	207.66
Crafters Float		100.00	100.00	100.00
Shop Float		1618.27	1618.27	1093.03
	53707.30	155423.92	209131.22	57289.32

**Debtors**

Lettings due but not received

**Creditors**

Bills payable

62.63

Due to NEST

153.92

188.00

**NON MONETARY ASSETS**

Community Hub, fixtures and fittings

Defibrillator

Tables and chairs

Sports Equipment

Kitchen Equipment

Cleaning materials

Craft Materials

Signed 

Date 18/11/2025.

Signed

Date

**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 have identified a matter of concern that .... Delete if not applicable)~~

~~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.

*Examiner Name, address and date*

Vanessa Hands

29 Daywell Rise

Etching Hill

Rugeley

Staffs

WS15 2RE

18.11.2025