

CIVIC POWER FUND

England & Wales · Charity number 1203784

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [13635441](#)

Registered 2023-06-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE COMPANY ARE TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY AND SKILLS OF THE MEMBERS OF SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BY PROVIDING PROJECT GRANT FUNDING AND SUPPORT SO THAT THEY ARE BETTER ABLE TO IDENTIFY, AND HELP MEET, THEIR NEEDS AND TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN SOCIETY.

Activities: The Civic Power Fund is a charity that focuses on developing the capacity and skills of the members of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in the United Kingdom through funding community organising.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£1,612,415	£1,249,034	£858,783	5
2023-12-31	£1,608,623	£1,113,619	£495,402	4

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Daniel Alexander Paskins	Chair	2024-07-16
Dr Patrick Williams		2024-12-11
Martha Awojobi		2024-10-02
Naimah Abdullahi Hassan		2022-03-21
Nicholas Lowles		2021-09-21
Nicola Jane Williams		2022-03-21

CIVIC POWER FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1203784

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 13635441 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1203784

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
FOR
CIVIC POWER FUND**

DSC Accountants Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Tattersall House
East Parade
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 5LT

Civic Power Fund Trustee Report and Financial Statements

01 January 2024 - 31 December 2024

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CIVIC POWER FUND

Foreword from Staff and Trustees

This year has been uniquely challenging for the communities we work with.

Many people are struggling to make ends meet.

Racism - and anti-migrant, Islamophobic and antisemitic hatred are all rising, with shocking acts of violence punctuating the last twelve months. In a short space of time we - and many others - have moved from openly celebrating the groups we work with, to shielding them and their work from aggression.

Meanwhile, climate change is accelerating - and our domestic and global political systems feel increasingly ill-equipped to respond.

Against this backdrop, it is hard to feel hopeful. Yet we are going to try - because the communities we work with are leading the way.

From the food kitchen that organised people in poverty to win compensation for poor housing conditions. To the coalition of low-paid workers who organised across the UK to win safe sick pay. Or the group of parents who built a grassroots movement to tackle local air pollution whilst demanding global action on climate justice.

Throughout this report, you will hear time and time again about the incredible impact of community organising.

At this moment of profound challenge, local communities are cultivating leaders; forging relationships; and building civic power. They are winning real change - and centering joy and community in the process.

It is through this deep, solidaristic work that we can build a better present and transform our future.

Yet we are concerned that the funding sector is not ready to respond.

In the latest edition of Funding Justice, Jon Cracknell and Eliza Baring found that just 4.5% of grants from the UK's largest funders are going towards social justice. And a mere 0.2% towards community organising.

If we are to have any hope of resisting hate and oppression, this has to change. Which is why we continue to organise funders alongside our investments in organising groups.

It has also been a year of transition for the Civic Power Fund.

After two years of rapid expansion and experimentation, 2024 saw us established as a significant grantmaking force. We awarded £1.7 million in multi-year grants and stood-up two new funder collaboratives around community organising.

We also set up a fast and effective emergency action fund in response to the racist riots over the summer. We distributed over 104 grants, with the vast majority in just two weeks.

And we began to see the impact of many of our initial investments, with local groups building the foundations of power and winning change that matters to them.

We did all of this with a staff team of just 4FTE and a committed and passionate Board of Trustees. Although we are eternally grateful to the community of thousands who, by generously sharing their time, energy and wisdom, made this possible.

Looking ahead, our priority is to keep moving money at scale to groups and organisations centring community organising and building civic power.

CIVIC POWER FUND

But to do this, we also need to invest more in our own operational footprint - ensuring we are delivering sustainably and better able to support our partners. And we want to be more deliberate about bringing people together and supporting groups on their organising journey.

We hope you will see these intentions clearly reflected across this report and take hope from the many stories of organising impact you read.

The six Charity Trustees of the civic power fund are also Company Directors.

CIVIC POWER FUND

Civic Power Fund in Numbers

- In 2024 we awarded c. **£1.7 million** in multi-year grants to **31** grantee partners. This takes total grants awarded to **£2.4 million**.¹
- We also awarded **104** emergency grants to organisations responding to the racist and Islamophobic riots in August 2024. Most of these grants were awarded within just **two** days.
- As our own resources expand, we are growing the number of multi-year grants we award; this is key to building long-term power. Throughout this report you'll read more about the amazing partners we have the privilege to work with. .
- Where we were not able to fund groups directly, we worked with them to secure alternative sources of income. As part of this, we convinced several key funding partners to accept Civic Power Fund Grant Memos in lieu of applications. At least **six** additional partners have been funded a total of **£1 million** through this route.
- Advised over **29** grassroots groups through the Civic Power Fund Governance Hub. This specialist legal hub is supporting groups with their key governance and strategy challenges. Since 2023 the Hub has advised **62** groups directly and this year **hundreds** of groups came through the regular online learning sessions hosted by the Hub team
- Launched **a third** landmark study of where UK social justice funding goes. Together with The Hour is Late, we found that grants directed to social justice work account for just **4.5%** of funding from the UK's largest grant makers, with just **0.2%** being directed to community organising work. The majority of grants are still directed to 'service delivery' and 'inside game' work.²
- Built a community of **thousands** of passionate, committed and willing individuals who generously shared their time, energy and wisdom. This community has welcomed our small team into their networks, helping us meet goals well beyond our size.

¹ The total new grant contracts awarded were c. £1.7 million. This includes £420,000 awarded in aligned funding by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. We distributed £922,650 (£798,750 excluding the Paul Hamlyn aligned funding) in this accounting period. To date (December 2024) Civic Power Fund has awarded grant contracts worth a total of £2.4 million including the Paul Hamlyn Foundation aligned grants.

² Jon Cracknell and Eliza Baring, Funding Justice 3, February 2025.

CIVIC POWER FUND

Statement of Charitable Objects

The Civic Power Fund is a charity that focuses on developing the capacity and skills of the members of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in the United Kingdom through funding community organising.

Our objects are:

“To develop the capacity and skills of the members of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in the United Kingdom by providing project grant funding and support so that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.”

We aim to ensure that those facing disadvantage have the power to shape their quality of life, community and future.

Our mission is to build this power through community organising.

This means bringing people who share common challenges due to age, location, sexual orientation, gender, religion, class, and race together to fully participate in democracy and win lasting change.

Community organising is a practice that builds relationships within communities. It helps individuals participate fully in democracy, through understanding who and what has the power to deliver change - and both engaging with and challenging these structures.

Through this participation, it helps communities secure lasting change that improves their lives. It also makes our democratic institutions more responsive to the rights and needs of those left behind because of economic or social disadvantage.

When targeted at these communities, community organising is a vital charitable practice that can both achieve change and deliver wider public benefit through strengthened civic bonds, diversity, and inclusion.

However, despite the enormous potential impact of community organising, it is underfunded. This is especially true of organising led by communities already disadvantaged because of their age, location, sexual orientation, gender, religion, class, and race.

The Civic Power Fund aims to change this by increasing charitable resources for organising within these communities and providing wrap-around support to boost their capacity.

In setting the Civic Power Fund’s strategy each year, we have regard to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees review the strategy to ensure that it falls within the Charity’s charitable objectives and aims.

Throughout this report, we may use terms that are better understood by our partners to describe our work.

This includes:

- “grassroots” as shorthand for local community organising led by people experiencing the issue they are organising around
- “minoritised and marginalised” in place of disadvantaged
- “emergent” and “pioneering” to mean new and innovative
- “systemic change” to mean lasting, structural change that benefits disadvantaged communities.

We also use “partners” to describe both the groups we fund and our core funder partners.

CIVIC POWER FUND

Mission, Vision and Values

Our Vision

A world where every person has the power to shape their quality of life, community and future.

Our Mission

To build lasting civic power through community organising.

By investing in grassroots organising, we can unleash the power of people to improve their lives and their communities and create common cause in pursuit of the social, environmental, and economic justice vital to a flourishing democracy.

Our Values

Because we meet the world as it is, not as we wish it to be, the values that guide our work are as important as the ends we seek.

- **Self-determination.** We trust people to build strategies and make decisions to shape the institutions, actions and policies impacting their lives.
- **Solidarity.** We help to build solidarity within and between communities to achieve the collective action vital to shifting the balance of power through democracy.
- **Justice.** We work to dismantle the barriers to racial, economic, gender and LGBTQ+ justice that are standing in the way of full democratic participation and we foster representation and liberation through all our work.
- **Dignity.** We value our common humanity and act with kindness, care and respect to build a democracy that involves and brings out the best in all of us.
- **Humility.** We are committed to listening to, learning from and following the lead of the communities, groups and individuals doing the work.
- **Bravery.** We recognise that building power is hard and takes time and courage, so we will challenge dishonesty, fraud and disinformation and we will reward risk and embrace failure - and learn from both.
- **Hope.** We are optimistic about the future because we passionately believe that organised people have the power to shape their lives and the world for the better.

Activities and Impact

Our Goals

Goal 1: Building Organising Infrastructure

By 2030, we aim to have built a well-resourced ecosystem of diverse and impactful community organising infrastructure groups. These groups are training and supporting grassroots community organisers across the UK and collaborating nationally and globally to win change.

Why?

Community organising infrastructure provides two vital functions:

1. training the next generation of organisers and leaders
2. curating places and spaces for communities to come together and amplify their impact.

Yet infrastructure work is significantly underfunded, especially when led by minoritised and marginalised communities. This means organisations are unable to build and grow, limiting the potential of groups to win the change they seek.

CIVIC POWER FUND

Our central thesis

Innovative community organising is taking place across the country. This is often led by women, people of colour, immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities, and wider minoritised and marginalised communities. Yet this work is significantly underfunded, meaning these organisers and their organisations are unable to build and grow.

We know that organisers are best placed to build the infrastructure they need. By investing in them for the long-term, we can nurture the next generation of leaders, who in turn will help build the winning coalitions vital to lasting change.

So we...

- Provide long-term, flexible funding and wrap-around support to emergent organising infrastructure across the UK
- Create places and spaces for these organisations to come together and learn from one another and build networks
- Incubate innovative ideas and actions to strengthen the UK community organising field; championing organisers' ideas, taking risks and finding opportunities to help grow and sustain their work

Activities and Impact

Supporting Community Organising Infrastructure

Central to our work under Goal 1 is funding **emergent community organising infrastructure**.

In 2024, we added 10 partners to our community organising infrastructure funding strand. Each of these partners had already been funded by the Civic Power Fund through the Community Action Fund: an open funding round launched in 2022 to find and fund emergent organising work happening across the UK.

We pooled available resources to continue funding partners who were planting the seeds of civic power amongst underserved communities. Groups that were demonstrably developing leaders; building relationships; and pursuing clear and strategic opportunities to win change.

Just three examples of this work are included below.

*In 2024, the **South Norwood Community Kitchen** helped to reduce the impact of poverty on 2,000 local people, providing hot, nutritious meals; clothes and other essential items; and a warm space for 25 hours per week. They also provided 80 hardship grants to people in urgent need; emergency accommodation for 20 people; housing, debt and benefits advice and advocacy for 50 people; and referrals for additional support for 90 people. They were the only organisation in Croydon delivering community-centred poverty reduction work at this level. However Civic Power Fund funding helped them go beyond service delivery. They were able to run workshops with local young people on police overreach and disciplinary procedures in schools; supported local activists organising against the racist riots during the summer months and organised two community assemblies, holding space for 50 local people to speak up on the issues that affect them, their families and their neighbours. They organised their community on housing rights and continued important local advocacy work that is changing how the local council interacts with the community.*

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South Norwood Community Kitchen gathers some of their members in the back garden. Credit: South Norwood Community Kitchen, 2024.

With backing from the Civic Power Fund, **the Common Good Foundation** in Grimsby built a flourishing community organising coalition. In October, this coalition launched a new community group: Local Organising in Grimsby, Immington and Cleethorpes (LOGIC), who held their first assembly that same month. Made up of people and institutions from across the local area and rooted in the football club, they have been campaigning for good local jobs and improved housing conditions. They've built relationships with the local council and the new Mayor. Their focus now is on strengthening the organisation as a key pillar of civic power across the local area.

Parents For Future Scotland built a diverse network of parents from underserved communities in Glasgow who were worried about the impact of climate change on their children's health. They partnered with schools to engage children and parents directly - giving talks at over 40 schools. A third of parents who joined these talks also joined the network - an extraordinary conversion rate. The campaign culminated in an assembly at Glasgow City Chambers in April 2024, where children, parents, and representatives of local climate groups came together to petition officials and councillors on the key changes they wanted to see. Parents and children voted on the changes and picked three top priorities - including the appointment of an active travel coordinator funded by the Low Emissions Zone (LEZ). Glasgow City Council agreed to pursue this and are now working with the network on implementation. Funding from the Civic Power Fund allowed Parents for Future Scotland to move beyond education towards action. They are now expanding their organising work into Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

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In a recent independent report commissioned by the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**, the Civic Power Fund's contribution to community organising infrastructure was acknowledged.

“CPF is an exciting, innovative and much needed addition to the social justice sector. It is strongly values-led and has set out to build long-term capacity, understanding and infrastructure for organising and movement building, so community power is adequately resourced and can thrive. It is committed to shift power from traditional power holders towards the grassroots and is doing this in a thoughtful, participatory and trust-based manner.”³



Parents for Future Scotland Glasgow City Chambers Event 2024. Credit: Parents for Future Scotland, 2024

³ Lena Baumgartner and Alice Sachrajda, Shifting Power: Exploring the value of pooled funds in the UK funding landscape, commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, February 2024.

CIVIC POWER FUND**Example Community Organising Infrastructure Grants**

Organisation	Issues	Location	Summary	Grant Duration	Total Grant Amount	New or Existing	2024
Act Build Change	Community Organising	UK wide	Act Build Change exists to make community organising accessible to all and build a network of leaders committed to justice. They teach people how to build relationships and win change.	3 years (2022-2025)	£90,000.00	Existing	£30,000.00
All the Small Things CIC	Fighting Poverty, Community Organising	Stoke on Trent, Midlands	All The Small Things CIC is a social enterprise based in St Mark's Church, Stoke on Trent. They bring together disadvantaged individuals in Shelton to build community and win change.	1 year (2024-2025)	£15,000.00	New	£15,000.00
Common Good Foundation	Community Organising, Fighting Poverty	Grimsby, Yorkshire	The Common Good Foundation is building collective, democratic power in Grimsby. The local community has so much to offer, but rapid de-industrialisation has left too many people behind. The town is fighting back.	1 year (2024-2025)	£20,000.00	New	£20,000.00
Parents For Future Scotland	Climate Action, Parents	Glasgow, Scotland	Parents For Future Scotland is a parent-led group encouraging intergenerational engagement in the climate crisis. Based in Glasgow, they are working with parents and schools from non-typical backgrounds to help children find their voice on climate issues.	1 year (2024-2025)	£17,000.00	New	£17,000.00

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Alliance for Youth Organising



Towards the end of last year, we worked with three funders to pool resources behind a new **Alliance for Youth Organising**. The goal of this Alliance is to build an intergenerational collective who will invest to strengthen youth organising infrastructure.

In 2024 the nine members of the Alliance came together to design their strategy, understand the needs of the Youth Organising field, and build a collective capable of resourcing it. They hail from all across the UK and have deep roots in the different traditions of community organising and youth activism.

The intention behind the Alliance for Youth Organising is to shift power and decision-making to the people who know what youth organising needs to thrive. By pooling and targeting resources, it is key to attracting new investments and having impact at scale. And it is an opportunity to nurture the networks that youth organisers have told us they need to do their best work.

The Alliance is therefore taking their time to build trust and fund intentionally, so they can upend traditional power structures in philanthropy and build something that is responsive to and sustained by the wider community. They plan to start awarding grants in 2025.

We are in awe of the skills, talent and passion of the collective and the vision they are starting to develop. Their approach to the work is generative and joyful, and we know they are going to have an enormous impact on both youth organising and how we collectively fund this work.

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Migrant Power Project

In 2024, the Civic Power Fund launched the Migrant Power Project. In partnership with six funders, we designed a new long-term project to build the civic power of organisations led by refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and diaspora communities.

The aims of this project were to ensure that these communities:

- are better able to ensure their existing rights
- win policy change that improves life for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers and the communities that they live in
- build deep bonds of solidarity with their neighbours, creating more welcoming communities.

The project provided multi-year funding, organisational capacity and community organising support to 14 groups operating in this space across the UK. These groups have both deep roots in their community but also the capacity to lift up smaller groups around them, ultimately building a broad tent of collective, community power.

It is also providing wrap-around support to boost community organising capacity, support organisational development and help the organisations come together around shared issues and opportunities. This year was focussed on setting up the project, with joint work beginning in 2025.

Example Migrant Power Project Grants

Organisation	Issues	Location	Summary	Grant Duration	Total Grant Amount	New or Existing	2024
Kent Refugee Action Network (KRAN)	Immigration Rights, Young People, Racial Justice, Community Organising	Kent, South East England	KRAN works with separated young refugees and asylum seekers, also known as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children). These are young people aged 16 to 24 who have arrived in Kent alone and are claiming asylum. We provide them with a safe, positive space and support them to succeed.	3 years (2024-2027)	£95,976.75	New	£30,000.00
Migrant Action	Immigration Rights, Diaspora Organising, Social Cohesion	Leeds, North West England	Migrant Action supports migrants with advice, guidance and practical assistance for effective integration. They advocate against hostile policies and provide leadership opportunities.	3 years (2024-2027)	£95,976.75	New	£30,000.00

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Triangular CIO	Immigration Rights	Tyne and Wear, North East England	Triangular CIO is a network of volunteers and professionals who support migrant communities in Tyne and Wear. They are building a network of Refugee Community Organisations - bringing together these vital lived-experience-led support services to build collective power and influence local decision-making.	3 years (2024-2027)	£95,976.75	New	£30,000.00
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Governance Hub

The **Civic Power Fund’s Governance Hub (the Hub)** is one way that we strengthen community organising groups. Through free governance advice, specialist support and training, we help organisations grow their capacity to anticipate and manage governance, compliance and regulatory risks.

In 2024 we expanded the partnership, working with Disrupt Foundation, Unbound Philanthropy and Barrow Cadbury Trust to offer support to their grant partners. We also offered more shared opportunities to gain support, supplementing 1-2-1 advice with workshops and training events.

In 2024, we offered assistance to over 30 organisations, providing practical support and guidance to our partners and allies.

Led by Matt Howgate - an experienced public lawyer who has over 15 years of experience advising and supporting grassroots groups on their governance needs - the Hub draws in specialist support from a range of consultants and experts.

The Hub has also become an essential part of our due diligence. We continue to identify governance or compliance issues with our grant partners and offer clear and robust solutions to resolve issues they are facing.

As initiatives such as the Alliance for Youth Organising seek to direct more resources towards grassroots organising, we have found that the Hub’s services are an increasingly integral part of how we ensure funding strengthens rather than undermines nascent groups. The Hub allows us to boost the capacity of emergent organisations, ensuring that they can access a much wider pool of charitable resources in the longer term.

Goal 2: Building Civic Power in Place

By 2030, we aim to have built a strong and diverse network of local groups who are accountable to their community and building power through organising. These groups are working together to win change and holding local and national decision makers to account.

Why?

Communities across the UK are disconnected from their democracy. This means our politics consistently works against them. Minoritised and marginalised communities are uniquely let down by our systems.

[Evidence shows](#) that local groups trusted by and rooted in their community are uniquely well placed to build and hold the power of these communities, winning change that matters to them and contributing to long-term systemic shifts in policy and our politics.

CIVIC POWER FUND

Our central thesis

Organising builds the power of people to take action on the issues that matter to them. It transforms individual and community outcomes and builds the foundations from which successful movements can grow.

All across the UK, groups are trying to organise their communities. But these groups are starved of cash and without the support to deepen and grow their impact. By combining long-term, flexible funding with collaboration, capacity building, and cohort building, we can build thriving nodes of civic power and show others what is possible.

So we...

- Identify key geographies with unique potential for impact and learning
- Provide coordinated long-term resources to grassroots groups to organise their community
- Support groups to boost internal organising capacity and secure independent revenue
- Through network effects, encourage cross-geography action and share lessons that can be replicated across the UK and globally

Activities and Impact

Building Power in Greater Manchester and North East Wales

The Civic Power Fund concentrates our grantmaking in North East Wales and Greater Manchester.

Our aim is to build deep nodes of civic power in place that can thrive for decades to come. We also hope to learn lessons from this place-based organising that we can help take to scale across the UK.

At the end of 2023 we awarded multi-year grants to six different partners working across the Greater Manchester city region. These groups are deeply connected to their community and planting the seeds of community organising by developing leaders and building relationships. We funded them to deepen their work and started to provide opportunities to learn and network with each other.

In 2024 we also awarded our first grants in North East Wales. Here, we are working with three partners - including the vital community organising Infrastructure group Together Creating Communities - to gradually build a network of local groups who are working together to win change. We have provided 1-2-1 training and coaching to these groups.

Some examples of their impact include:

***Together Creating Communities** in North Wales held a Cost of Living Summit with key local decision-makers. They secured pledges of action from those with formal power in the room. Relationships built in advance of the event and lived-experience testimonials on the day fostered accountability. They also secured major victories in their campaign to improve the accessibility of coastal paths.*

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Matt Hildreth of Rural Organizing visits Wrexham Town with Together Creating Communities and Civic Power Fund. Credit: Civic Power Fund, 2025

We Belong continued building the power of young people in Greater Manchester and London. In October, they convened young people and stakeholders from across their network. This was a key moment to build relationships and secure promises from City Council members around social cohesion and youth engagement. They also launched their Out of the Loop campaign to secure a fee waiver for children and young people now eligible for settlement. Despite the hostile political environment they secured the backing of cross-party MPs.

Several of our other partners in **Greater Manchester** used community organising to secure high-level access and influence:

- Collaborative Women secured a meeting with the Mayor of Greater Manchester to discuss housing provision for domestic violence survivors. Their leaders were also invited to join several key decision-making forums across the city region.
- The Centre for Progressive Change built relationships with 11 MPs across Greater Manchester, securing their support for their 'Safe Sick Pay' campaign. This was instrumental in convincing the new Government to take action.
- And the Greater Manchester Immigration Unit launched a campaign around the lack of ESOL provision for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. This led to the co-creation of an action group with local authorities and community leaders.

CIVIC POWER FUND**Example Place-Based Grants**

Organisation	Issues	Location	Summary	Grant Duration	Total Grant Amount	New or Existing	2024
Greater Manchester Tenants Union	Housing	Manchester, North West England	GMTU is a democratic, member-led union, working across the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester. They organise and represent members in the private and social rented sector, fighting for safe, secure and affordable housing for everyone.	3 years (2023-2026)	£60,000.00	Existing	£20,000.00
Collaborative Women	Gender Based Violence	Manchester, North West England	Collaborative Women unites women experiencing gender-based harm across Greater Manchester. They work with women made homeless, women in the criminal justice system, and refugee women seeking protection.	3 years (2024-2027)	£60,000.00	New	£20,000.00
Cymunedoli Cyf	Community Ownership; Community Benefit	Across North East Wales	Cymunedoli is a Welsh term which means the coming together of a community. Cymunedoli Cyf is an innovative and exciting network that supports community initiatives to manage resources and labour for common benefit.	3 years (2024-2027)	£67,500.00	New	£22,500.00
Together Creating Communities	Community Organising	North Wales	Together Creating Communities is the primary organising alliance in North Wales. They tackle social injustice by supporting diverse communities to gain the power they need to enact change.	3 years (2024-2027)	£120,000.00	New	£40,000.00

CIVIC POWER FUND

Emergency Action Fund

In response to the racist and Islamophobic far-right violence that took place across the UK in August 2024, Civic Power Fund opened an Emergency Action Fund to quickly move money to the groups on the frontline.

The aim was to move money to groups working with refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, racialized communities, and other communities facing hate and/ or organising against far right violence.

Thanks to support from four funders, we granted £1000 to 104 separate groups - the vast majority within two days of a referral.

Needs ranged from providing wellbeing support to traumatised staff and communities; venue safety - e.g. installing CCTV; personal safety - e.g. a pram for a family seeking asylum who were too scared to leave their hotel without one; emergency training around community organising and protest rights; convening young people to work together on joint solutions; and keeping venues open longer so people have somewhere to go.

Following the lead of Funders for Race Equality Alliance (FRAE), we also worked with our [intermediary partners](#) Justice Together Initiative and Migration Exchange to urge that this moment did not lead to fast money without the long-term, structural change required.

The groups accessing Emergency Action Fund grants have been raising the alarm about systemic racism, injustice and violence for many years. And the fear, anger and division they face has not gone away. We were grateful for FRAE's leadership and all who are working to ensure the gravity and severity of this moment is reflected in future funding practice.

While much more work is needed, we know that this funding was a life-line for the 104 groups who benefitted. But it also showed that fast, responsive grant giving is possible and the immense value of working in partnership to maximise speed and impact.

Goal 3: Raising our voice to better resource organising

By 2030, we aim to have shifted a greater proportion (minimum 12% of social justice grantmaking) of UK philanthropic resources towards community organising. This is reaching grassroots groups rooted in and accountable to diverse communities.

Why?

Currently only 0.2% of grantmaking from the UK's largest funders goes towards community organising. While it is vital that community groups have independent income streams, philanthropy offers a uniquely flexible source of capital that could and should be resourcing these groups.⁴

Organising is also a proven route to impact. Philanthropic funders have an outsized impact on the tactics social justice actors pursue and should be allocating resources to what works.

Our central thesis

Funding organising well requires shifting power and control to communities. This is a massive cultural shift for most existing sources of charitable giving.

An intermediary can both show what is possible and move resources at scale, in turn shifting funding practices for the long-haul.

Short-term, competitive and project-based funding is also inhibiting long-term people power. That is why we are making a collective case for more and better funding for this work.

CIVIC POWER FUND

So we...

- Make a collective, nationwide case for investment in grassroots community organising
- ‘Show by doing’, consistently sharing lessons and impact
- Work alongside our partners to strategically influence key philanthropic and social justice stakeholders to shift more and better resources into organising

Activities and Impact

Funding Justice 3



The Civic Power Fund released Funding Justice 3; the third iteration of the flagship research into social justice grantmaking, developed in partnership with The Hour is Late.

Researchers analyzed over 20,000 grants made in the 2022/23 financial year (together worth more than £935 million) to map how much UK foundation giving is going to work addressing injustice, and how this social justice funding is allocated.

With this edition, we began to build comparable, year-on-year data. The scope of the research expanded from 60 to 84 funders, and added qualitative insights based on a survey completed by 33 leading social justice funders.

Grants directed to social justice work account for 4.5% of funding from the UK’s largest grant makers, with just 0.2% being directed to community organising work. The majority of grants are still directed to ‘service delivery’ and ‘inside game’ work.

There is a big gap between the importance accorded to ‘structure organising’ by leading funders and the resources currently being directed to this work: only 8.4% of social justice funding was directed to ‘structure organising’ work, down from 9.4% in 2021/22. This is despite ‘structure organising’ being ranked by funders completing our survey as one of the three most important theories of change.

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The proportion of funding directed to each theory of change

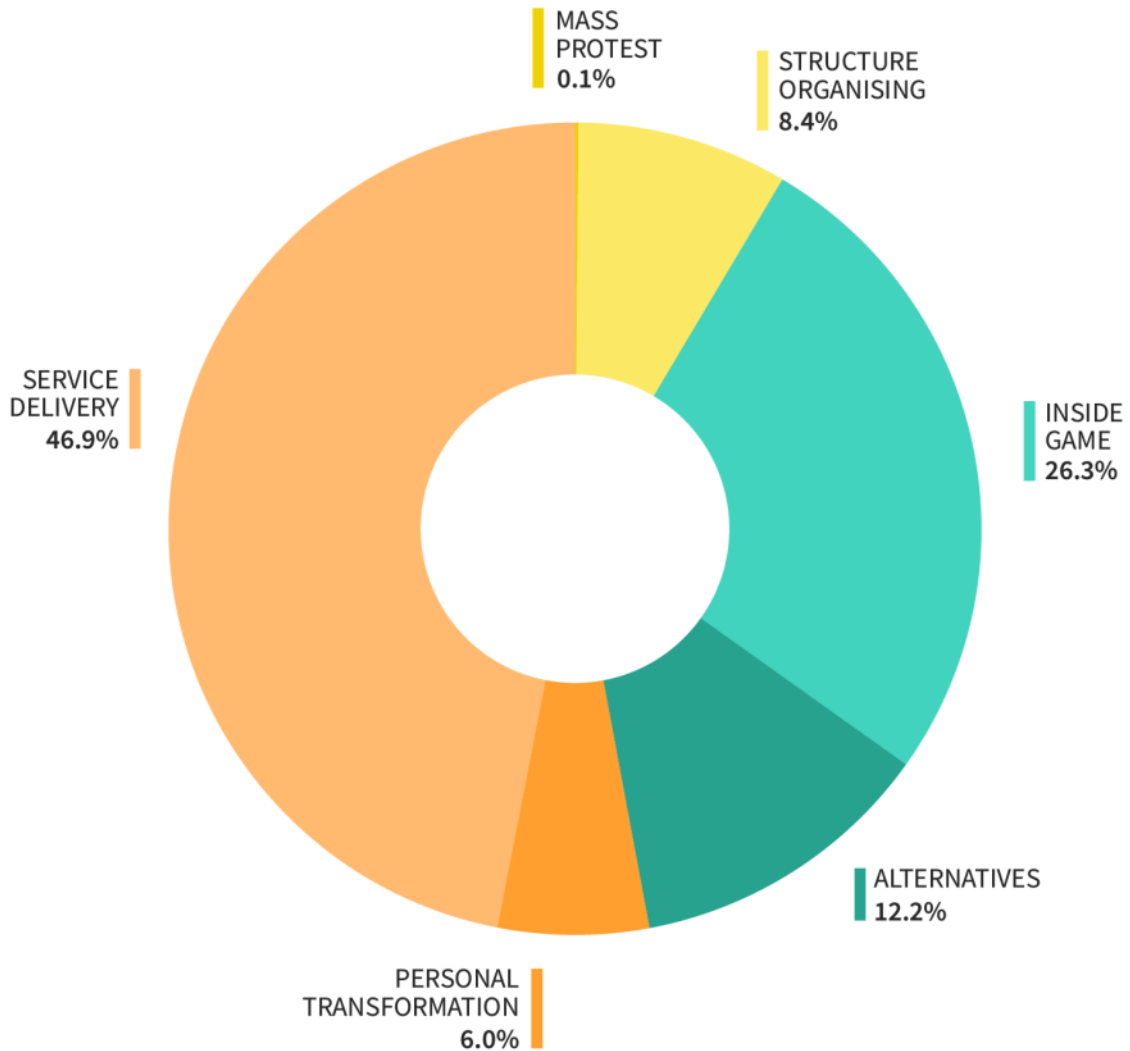


Image taken from Funding Justice 3 showing the breakdown of social justice funding described in the paragraph above.

The research also dived into thematic areas, finding, for example, that women’s organising is particularly underserved: with service delivery grants making up more than 80% of overall social justice grants, and only 3.1% going towards structure organising.

More than 400 people joined two webinars to launch the research, with 600 people expressing an interest to attend. We received extremely positive feedback from the launches from funders, organisers and others. The research has been mentioned in numerous briefings, presentations and reports shared by social justice funders, and CPF was invited to present the report and findings to funders and funder collaboratives including a group of over 100 European funders at the 2025 Philea conference in Lisbon.

We have also seen a number of social justice funders and large public bodies announce new strategies and programmes which centre either community power building or social justice work: these include National Lottery Community Fund’s [Community Power](#) programmes, and City Bridge Foundation’s new strategy [Standing with Londoners](#).

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Partnership work

We are clear that success does not just mean the growth of the Civic Power Fund.

As captured in Goal 3, our aim is to shift resources at scale so that far more groups receive sustainable funding for community organising. To this end, we worked closely with other funders and partners to ensure our partners could access a wider pool of charitable resources.

In 2024, we went beyond traditional grantmaking to serve as a vital networking and convening partner, directly helping six grantee partners secure over £1,000,000 in additional funding from eight other aligned funders.

We also championed the work of our grantee partners across the sector, which led to many of them winning awards and fellowships.

Building on our 2023 work, we strengthened relationships with key movement partners, securing residential opportunities for grantees with the Youth Hostel Alliance and holding unique events in high-profile locations like a LUSH store in Birmingham's Bullring and London's Liverpool Street. We secured grantee partners free office space and support from consultants, and we platformed them in partnerships with YouTube and TED.

Our movement-building approach also led to powerful, unexpected collaborations, such as introducing Small Axe and the Migrant Democracy Project, who went on to build a voter registration website, canivote.org.uk, which successfully registered 10,000 people in time for the national Elections.

Convening



Civic Power Fund Chair of the Board Dan Paskins chats to grantee partners at a recent get together in London. Credit: Civic Power Fund, 2025.

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When the Civic Power Fund launched, we identified that traditional funding models often create a gap between funders and the grassroots organisations they support. Part of our mission is to bridge this gap by actively engaging in movement building. We've found that convening is a powerful, low-cost, high-impact tool for fostering collaboration, redistributing power, and generating momentum within the civil society sector.

Over the past three years, CPF has developed a unique convening model centred on generosity, connection, and care. Our approach involves:

1. **Active Networking:** We facilitate connections through curated "target lists" and intimate, purposeful events.
2. **Sharing the Spotlight:** We operate in the background, elevating our partners by listing them as hosts and giving them keynote opportunities.
3. **Prioritising the Excluded:** We intentionally platform women, people of colour, and smaller, under-resourced groups.

Our efforts have yielded overwhelmingly positive results, with an average satisfaction rating of 4.8 out of 5 across nine events.

Following a recent convening in Manchester, we heard that:

"It's really reassuring to have someone like CPF in the organising ecosystem. Knowing that someone gets what you do, sees the value of your work, and is able to be a bridge between grassroots organising and the funding world is invaluable. It's been a real blessing to work with Civic Power Fund in the North West. The hard work they put into building relationships, getting to know us and our work, and importantly getting stuff done is wonderful."

A food bank organiser in Trafford said: *"I attended your event a few days after starting my job. It allowed me to connect with NEF and the GM Living Income campaign. We've met several times since, and they have essentially been coaching me. I was previously a teacher, so having that expertise has been invaluable."*

More importantly, these gatherings have led to tangible outcomes, including new partnerships, significant donations, and critical project collaborations.

Our Approach to Learning and Impact

Learning and development are key to everything we do.

We have made a strategic commitment to "learn in public" and iterate our strategy around the lessons we gather. We regularly carry out snap project evaluations and share this learning online and with key partners.

We track impact in three core ways:

1. Working directly with our grantee partners to understand the impact of our funding. This is gathered through annual reporting, which tells us whether the money has helped them reach their goals and any wider lessons for them, the Civic Power Fund, and the sector. We also carry out end of grant calls with all our partners to build a deeper understanding of their experiences.
2. Working with Hidden Depths Research and community organisers, we developed a learning framework that helps us track whether civic power is being built and deployed in place. We are rolling this out over a three year period in Manchester and North Wales. This includes tracking key metrics such as health of the group; diversity and regularity of attendees at meetings and key events; access to and relationships with those in power; overall campaign success; and local and national alliances built.
3. In partnership with the Hour is Late, the Civic Power Fund releases an annual map of where social justice funding goes. This tells us the proportion of social justice grantmaking that goes towards organising. We are tracking this over time.

We have learnt many lessons from community organisers, who are forensic about learning and impact. The best community organisers will carry out evaluations after each action to determine what went well and why, and to understand how they could improve both the action and the strategy. This ensures a real-time approach to learning and impact. Rather than presupposing hyper-specific outputs and outcomes, the strategy adapts in pursuit of a clear end goal. This is vital to building and shifting power, and achieving lasting change.

CIVIC POWER FUND

Structure, Governance and Management

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Governing Document

The Civic Power Fund is a charitable company limited by guarantee (13635441). It was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 21 September 2021. The Civic Power Fund was registered as a charity on 26 June 2023 (1203784). We are registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, but operate in all four nations.

Structure of the Organisation

The Civic Power Fund is governed by a Board of Trustees.

The members of the Board of the Civic Power Fund (CPF) are both the Trustees of CPF and (in company law) its Directors. The Board has overall responsibility for stewarding CPF and ensuring its activities are in the public benefit. To do so, the Board is responsible for working in partnership with the Executive Director and other members of the Strategic Leadership Team to deliver the following functions:

1. Strategic Direction and Performance
2. Financial and Grantmaking Oversight
3. Safeguarding
4. Risk Management and Regulatory Compliance
5. Board Management and Performance

Trustees share collective responsibility for all decisions made and actions taken with their authority.

Civic Power Fund is an intermediary grantmaking organisation. We fundraise from large trusts and foundations and regrant to smaller grassroots groups with an aim of growing the quality and quantity of funding for grassroots organising.

We are supported in our decision-making by participatory panels, made up of people with lived experience of disadvantage or expertise in community organising. However, final grantmaking decisions are approved by the Board of Trustees.

There are no related parties or relationships with charities and organisations with which Civic Power Fund co-operates in the pursuit of its charitable objectives

Board of Trustees

The Board may have five to nine members. Terms will be for three years, renewable twice. This means Board members can serve for a maximum of nine years.

Members of the Board of Trustees

During the reporting period, eight individuals served as Trustees, with two resignations during the year.

- **Dan Paskins is our Chair.** Dan is Save the Children's Executive Director for Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns. He leads Save the Children's programmes supporting families across the four nations of the UK and teams delivering wider policy, advocacy, campaigns. Before joining Save the Children, Dan worked for the National Lottery Community Fund as the Senior Head of Portfolio Development, and for local and national anti-poverty charities. Dan brings a wealth of experience in charity governance, supporting grassroots action and equitable transformative funding practice. Dan was appointed on 16th July 2024.
- **Nick Lowles is our Treasurer.** Nick is chief executive of HOPE not hate, the UK's largest anti-racism and anti-extremism movement. He was the former editor of anti-fascist magazine Searchlight. Nick was appointed upon incorporation on 21st September 2021. **Nick served as Interim Chair from 10th July 2024 to 16th July 2024.**

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- **Martha Awojobi is a Trustee.** Martha is CEO of [JMB Consulting](#), which supports third sector organisations to move beyond tokenistic and performative diversity gestures and grapple with the legacy of racism, imperialism and colonialism that is the heart of the charity sector. Martha works with organisations to understand racism, reflect on their relationship to white supremacy and work towards an anti-racist vision for a liberated future – particularly focused on redistribution of money and resources. Martha was appointed on 2nd October 2024.
- **Nikki Williams is a Trustee.** Nikki is the Director for Campaigning and Communities for The Wildlife Trusts. Her specialisms cover campaigning to influence policy at national and local level, community empowerment, and youth-led organisational development. She passionately believes that communities being in control of their own spaces helps create a healthier, happier society for all. Her background as an artist means she brings creativity to support others in experiencing nature and how it improves the quality of our lives. Nikki was appointed on 21st March 2023.
- **Naimah Hassan is a Trustee.** Naimah co-founded the Global Media Campaign and Africa Women Rights Advocates. Both organisations centre women-led movements and sustainable change. She is an award winning campaigner, disruptor, and policy shifter. For the past 15 years, she has worked to support community-led initiatives, innovations, strategies, and education. Being the change she wants to see is part of her DNA. She is an international trainer and speaker on different stages, including TED (2019). Naimah was appointed on 21st March 2023.
- **Patrick Williams is a Trustee.** Patrick Williams undertakes community-centred research with a focus on racial, social & economic injustices across the criminal legal systems of the UK and Europe. He was Senior Lecturer in Criminology (2007-2024) at the Manchester Metropolitan University before becoming Head of Research at Systemic Justice (2022-2024). Patrick now works in service to the Harm to Healing Coalition, which seeds and develops community-led infrastructures to resist the harms of the criminal legal system. Patrick was appointed on 11th December 2024.

Due to the small size of the Board, we do not currently have any standing subcommittees.

Selection and appointment of Trustees

Nominations and recommendations are first made from open recruitment. Their CVs are then circulated to the Board, which arranges for potential candidates to be interviewed for their suitability. A Nominations Committee then takes part in interviews alongside key staff members. Together, they recommend them to the Trustees. The Trustees will then vote to appoint a new Trustee. New Trustees are confirmed through special resolution.

Induction and training of Trustees

Newly appointed Trustees meet with the Chair, the Executive Director, and staff members as part of a documented and structured induction programme; and they receive key Civic Power Fund organisational and programmatic documents. They are asked to sign a Code of Conduct and standing register of interests.

Team

Civic Power Fund has five permanent staff on payroll. The majority of these staff members work part-time, meaning our Full Time Equivalent headcount is 3.6. We have a Senior Leadership Team of 2, Martha Mackenzie as Executive Director and Mohammed Afridi as Director of Organising.

- **Martha Mackenzie is our Executive Director.** She has a background in organising, campaigning, fundraising and charity leadership. She was previously Head of Global Humanitarian Advocacy at UNICEF in New York, and has led teams and campaigns at Shelter and Save the Children in the UK. Martha has balanced progressive fundraising and advocacy with campaigns rooted in redistributing power throughout her career. She has worked with renters to tackle revenge evictions, campaigned with parents on childcare costs, helped establish a youth activism charity and won multi-million dollar advocacy grants. She is a Trustee of Oxfam GB.

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- **Mohammed Afridi is our Director of Organising.** He was the former National Coordinator of Rize Up, a voter registration campaign aimed at marginalised and BME youth. In 2016 he helped set up The World Transformed, the UK's largest festival of progressive politics and arts. He has also worked as a consultant for the UK Democracy Fund, Cook 19 and other third sector organisations and was the former head of operations at Momentum. After graduating with a Master in Global Political Economy (University of Sussex), Mohammed held several senior positions in private sector firms, including Bloomberg LP.

Salaries for key management are set by the Board of Trustees. These are determined based on internal pay scales, benchmarked against the charitable funding sector. Annual increases for all staff are approved by the Board of Trustees. These increases are determined by benchmarking, inflation, and affordability for the Fund.

We appointed a Finance Lead in July 2024, and prior to this worked closely with both our accountants and with charity financial advisers at Moore Kingston Smith to support the development of and implementation of robust financial management practices.

Our Approach to Grantmaking

Civic Power Fund takes a principled and pragmatic approach to grantmaking.

In order to realise the potential of organising for minoritised and marginalised communities, the Civic Power Fund must change the way organising is funded in the UK. A major barrier facing communities is the lack of accessible money to build power. This means communities marginalised because of their age, location, sexual orientation, gender, religion, class, and race are continually prevented from changing the systems and structures that hold them back.

Through learning and working with our grantee and funder partners, we aim to change this.

To enable this, the following principles govern our grantmaking:

- Trust is earned, but it is *our* job to earn it
- Organising is hard, being funded to do it shouldn't be
- They are the experts and we are their support
- Transparency is a two-way street
- Feedback is for action not for contemplation
- Our grantees are our partners
- Failure is fine, fibs are not
- Organising takes a long time, funding should be for a long time

And we prioritise organisations that are:

1. Rooted in and accountable to minoritised and marginalised communities
2. Hoping to achieve long-term change on issues affecting the lives of their community
3. Working towards this long-term change by building the capacity and power of their community
4. Lacking the resources to take their vision to the next level
5. Seeking to build a larger us and resisting the politics of division

In deciding who to grant to, staff, trustees, and on some occasions appointed experts such as community organisers, work together to identify potential grantees, in line with our charitable objects and aims.

We either work with identified partners to co-produce a funding application, or we run open grant-rounds to attract as wide a range of candidates as possible. This depends on the strategic purpose of the grant.

With all our partners, we aim to break down barriers to funding and share the application load with them. This involves co-producing Grant Memos that capture their work and their plans.

The Board of Trustees authorises grants during quarterly meetings.

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Because we recognise the critical importance of trust and partnership between staff and grantees, and the time that grantees will have invested in developing the relationship by this point, the board is expected to authorise grants unless a clear case is made that an organisation does not fall within the Civic Power Fund's strategy or otherwise presents a serious strategic, reputational, or operational risk.

In addition to the core criteria above and ensuring alignment with our vision and values, we undertake detailed and holistic due diligence checks. The majority of this work is done by the Fund's staff in alignment with existing policies and, wherever possible, avoids unnecessary and burdensome form filling for grantees.

For the purpose of grantmaking, the fund remains 'politely sceptical' of applicants, ensuring that processes outlined in our financial controls and anti-fraud policies are followed, even when the grant recipient is trusted or we've worked with them previously. We also prioritise site visits and regular phone calls to build a relationship with our partners and ensure that we understand the work and are offering them adequate support.

Core to our charitable aims is ensuring funding for community organising reaches minoritised and marginalised communities. This means that some of the groups we work with are likely to be small, local groups who are not registered as a charity. Where this is the case, we are guided by the Charity Commission guidance on grant funding to non-charities. Robust checks and monitoring are carried out to ensure that the work is in line with our charitable purpose, for public benefit, and with a strictly non-partisan and non-political purpose.

All of this is set out in more detail in our 'Approach to Grantmaking' which we are happy to share on request.

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Risk Review

The Board of Trustees maintains an active risk register which is reviewed at Board Meetings.

The Board of Trustees applies a proactive risk statement across all our work. This allows us to apply different risk categories to different risk areas - noting that in some instances it serves our objects to take a higher degree of risk. We have been informed by the Information Commissioner's Office categorisation and share our current risk statement below.

<p>Hungry <i>Eager to be innovative and to choose options that suspend previously held assumptions and accept greater uncertainty</i></p>	<p>Grantmaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where we are confident work is rooted in the Mission, Vision and Values of the Civic Power Fund, we will fund bold, innovative and often overlooked groups that other funders deem as too risky to resource (e.g. non-charities, campaign groups, small groups). This means having a deep, personal relationship with these groups so we understand the nature of their work. • This is vital to achieve our objects, which centre disadvantaged communities. These communities are often excluded from formal structures so we intentionally look beyond them. • Where we have a high degree of trust in the groups and organisations we support, we will apply minimal funding barriers. This means moving money quickly with maximum flexibility. It also means providing vital wellbeing and strategy micro grants to support their work in real time. • To enable this, we thoroughly document all our decision-making. As we talk about in more detail below, we also have a hands-on approach to due diligence. We get to know our partners thoroughly and we provide partners with legal and compliance support through our Governance Hub. • Where we have flexibility in our income, we will sign multi-year grant agreements with our partners, holding funds on our books so we can resource the work in the way we know achieves maximum impact. By doing this, we will challenge others to take the same approach and break the cycle of short-termism in funding. • We will deliberately and publicly test and challenge boundaries with this work, making a case that campaigning and organising towards social justice is charitable. We will consistently show our workings to make this possible. <p>Speaking our mind. Where it is key to the performance of our grants and the success of our partners, we will speak up to support their work and make a case for funding community organising.</p>
<p>Open <i>Willing to consider all options and choose one that is most likely to result in successful delivery</i></p>	<p>Recruitment. We want the Civic Power Fund to centre organising in our recruitment. It should be staffed and run by people who get grassroots organising and movement building. As a result, we will prioritise potential and commitment over specific grantmaking and funding skills (except for our Finance Lead role and other areas where the overall performance of the Fund requires specific expertise).</p> <p>Fundraising. We will explore a wide range of funders. Although we will do robust funder due diligence, where the funding modality is aligned with our values (e.g. unrestricted), we will err towards taking the money and putting it towards the service of the movement, even if the source of funds is less aligned. We are transparent about this, so our grantee partners always know where the money is coming from.</p>

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	<p>Due Diligence. We have robust, hands-on due diligence processes, but we also ensure these are designed to support potential grantee partners to perform to the best of their ability, not penalise them on the basis of knowledge or policy gaps. For example, if an organisation is lacking something key to their governance, we will work with the Hub to get this in place in a way that works for them. We have a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and make that clear in our grant agreements. We use hands-on relationships with our partners to monitor this.</p>
<p>Cautious <i>Preference for safe options that have a low degree of residual risk</i></p>	<p>Financial Planning. We do not grant money we do not have. We will occasionally spend money on core costs on the basis of presumed income when there is a clear business case that the expense will boost sustainability. This means keeping the staff team small and only making grant commitments we can stand up. This is vital to our sustainability.</p> <p>Legal. We will seek robust legal and compliance advice whenever we are unsure. However, we will err towards likeminded experts who understand our Vision, Mission and Values and our deliberate intention to challenge assumptions about charitable work.</p> <p>Compliance. We will ensure full compliance across our finance, governance and HR systems against the standards we are held to. But we will also prioritise agility, ensuring our small team remains focused on our grantee partners and on bringing in external resources into the organisation.</p>
<p>Minimalist <i>Preference for safe options that have a low degree of inherent risk</i></p>	<p>Staff Wellbeing. We want to ensure a safe environment and will take minimal risks in this pursuit.</p> <p>Recordkeeping and Compliance. We will not take conscious risks in our financial, HR and governance record taking. For example, we will thoroughly document trustee decision-making where a hungry risk appetite is applied, and our bookkeeping and accounting will be thorough, robust, compliant and subject to external scrutiny.</p> <p>Behaviour. Relationships are our number one assets. We will not tolerate poor behaviour and we will hold ourselves to the highest standards in both our internal and external conduct.</p>
<p>Averse <i>Avoidance of risk and uncertainty</i></p>	<p>Safeguarding. We will take minimal risks when it comes to the safeguarding of our people and the people we support. We prioritise protecting the people we serve above ourselves. This means taking safeguarding approaches that centre survivors. This in turn means creating a culture of mutual accountability and collective care - and zero-tolerance for breaches of this.</p>

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Additionally, some of the specific risks to our work that we are monitoring include:

1. **The Civic Power Fund's financial and operational footprint.** The Civic Power Fund has grown quickly over the past few years. This makes keeping pace with our financial and operational requirements a constant challenge. As a result, we need to constantly review our financial controls and invest in more staff and trustees with a clear finance and operations mandate.
2. **Day to day attacks on organisations.** Our partners are facing huge challenges. This includes the rise of community tensions and direct attacks on their work and their premises by the far right. We are on hand to support them - providing emergency funding and support. But we are also doubling down on our community organising strategy as a way to build stronger communities over the long-term.
3. **Perceived risk and shrinking civil society space.** Many of the groups we work with are operating within a constrained civic environment. They are taking strategic and thoughtful risks in order to build power and win change, but they face hostile politics and policies. We stand by these groups as they stand up for their communities. And we have robust systems in place to ensure the charitability of our grants *and* the independence and challenging nature of the organisations we fund.
4. **Lack of quality funding for community organising.** The lack of available funding for organising makes it difficult for communities facing the harshest injustices to move beyond service delivery and focus on the systemic drivers of the challenges they face. Where funding does exist, it is short-term, small, and often project focused. This is forcing organisations to shift strategy depending on what funding is available. The sheer scarcity of resources for this work is also creating competition between groups when collaboration is key to impact. This is why we focus on influencing the wider funding sector to invest more and better resources into community organising.

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Finance Review

The financial results for the accounting period ended 31 December 2024 are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities. The Civic Power Fund has grown significantly since our micro accounts filed in 2022. This is a reflection of our change in status - moving from a start-up company limited by guarantee to a stable grantmaking charity.

We continue to make a clear and compelling case for funding grassroots organising and we have shown that we can reach and support this work effectively.

From 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 we raised £1.612 million - from a range of trusts and foundations - and we spent £1.249 million.

We do not raise funds from the public.

The full income is set out on the Statement of Financial Activities and disclosures and descriptions are included below.

Our overall restricted income is £1.172 million. Our overall unrestricted income is £440,200. We should note that the vast majority of our restricted income is extremely flexible - it is restricted to a specific area of our work, but beyond that spending is at our discretion. We are grateful to our funders who understand the vital importance of this flexibility.

Our overall spending was £1.249 million. The majority of our spending went towards grantmaking (£797,200 at 64%) with an additional spend on specific projects outlined in the Trustee's Annual Report including the Alliance for Youth Organising, Governance Hub, the Funding Justice research, the US Learning Exchange, and the Grassroots Organising conference (£127,277 at 10%) and the remaining spend being on internal infrastructure to ensure a tightly managed and robustly governed fund.

Disclosures and descriptions are included below and these projects are covered in detail throughout the report. As we grow and stabilise, we plan to increase the proportion of our spending on grantmaking.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is designed to protect the organisation against areas mentioned in our risk review along with unexpected falls in income, unplanned increases in expenditure, security risks and unexpected fluctuations in exchange rates.

Unrestricted funds

Our reserves comprise unrestricted funds that are freely available in line with Charity Commission guidance set out in CC19 Reserves and Resilience. The Board of Trustees has considered the risks facing the charity and set a target reserves policy equivalent to three to six months of general running costs to allow for fluctuations in income, one off-investments in the Fund's infrastructure and unexpected events. This is currently £150,000-300,000. As at 31 December 2024, reserves were £208,165 and comfortably within range.

Overall, our income and projected income puts us in a strong financial position. We are a clear going concern and looking forward to stabilising our incoming and outgoing resources as we transition from a small start-up to a more established fund.

Restricted funds

Our restricted funds carried forward to 2025 are £568,226. Per charity SORP income is accounted for when it satisfies the three SORP tests of entitlement, measurement and probability. Our current restricted fund balance represents that income received during the year for activity to be delivered in the coming year. Full disclosures and descriptions are included below and with the Financial Statements.

Designated funds

As at 31 December 2024, we had two designated funds; £16,500 for our activity in Wales and £47,893 for

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our activity in Manchester. We hold these designated funds, so that we can allocate unrestricted income to multi-year activity - knowing this is the type of long-term support our partners need, whilst also being committed to only awarding grant income we already have.

Disclosures and descriptions

Alliance for Youth Organising. This is an intergenerational collective making strategic funding decisions to support youth organising infrastructure. The initial investment from Blgrave Trust, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Paul Hamlyn Foundation is for 2024-2026, but our collective aim is to seed a long-term initiative that will help transform the sector.

Community Action Fund. Specific income restricted to a) our Community Action Fund - the Civic Power Fund's first open and democratic participatory fund for grassroots organising - and b) our first five Infrastructure grants. The bulk of this funding came from the closure of Campaign Bootcamp. It was stewarded by the Barrow Cadbury Trust before the Civic Power Fund became a registered charity. The money went towards five key infrastructure partners and 18 grassroots partners (all listed in the report) as well as the running costs of the programme (17% of the Campaign Bootcamp resources). Income remaining in these accounts is designated to the final multi-year grant payments in 2024.

Core Costs. Specific income restricted to our core costs from Unbound Philanthropy and John Ellerman Foundation. These funders do not permit regranting, but want to invest in the running and operational costs of the Civic Power Fund as they support the underlying mission.

Emergency Action Fund. Funding from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Legal Education Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and Paul Hamlyn Foundation to provide emergency funding to groups impacted by the riots in summer 2024.

General Charitable. The Civic Power Fund received several grants before we were a registered charity. The terms of these grants specify that the funding is unrestricted, but must be held separately within our accounts to ensure charitable spending. Of course, all our spending is charitable. However, we wanted to honour the grant terms in this 15 month set of accounts. In future accounts, this will not be necessary. Income remaining in these accounts is designated to our grantmaking and core costs (10% of the total grant amounts) in 2024.

Grassroots Organising. Funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for a project to explore and map funding for grassroots organising in the UK. Income remaining in these accounts is designated to grantee support and wellbeing.

Funding Justice. Specific income towards the Civic Power Fund's annual research mapping where UK social justice funding goes.

Manchester. Income from the Oglesby Charitable Trust restricted to our work in Manchester. This includes grantmaking and core costs (10% of total grant amount). We supplement the work in Manchester through our unrestricted grants.

Migration Power Project. Multiyear income from several funders to support a specific project to resource and provide wrap-around support to grassroots groups organising to improve the mental, physical and material wellbeing of diaspora communities and build social cohesion.

The Hub. Specific income for the Civic Power Fund's Governance Hub. The funding forms part of the multi-year budget to support this vital work. It primarily goes towards consultancy support from the Hub's primary legal advisor.

US Learning Exchange. Specific income towards the Civic Power Fund's US Learning Exchange in November 2023. A small number of key costs carried across to 2024.

Warm Welcome Campaign. Income from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Trust for London, and JRSST-CT towards a community organising pilot in Warm Welcome spaces. The project spans 2023 and 2024 and funding is primarily being regranting towards partners and their core costs.

CIVIC POWER FUND

Looking Ahead

Insights from the work

1. **The stakes could not be higher.** We are living through a moment of profound crisis. For the first time in 25 years, global poverty rates have increased. Across the world, societies are more fractured than ever and democracy is in trouble. The far right is increasing in power and influence, with Global Majority communities facing daily violence. These are global trends, but they are ricocheting through our communities at home.
2. **People power is our urgent response.** The only way we rise to the scale of this challenge is through community organising. Organising builds the power of communities marginalised because of who they are or where they are from. Through organising, these communities build countervailing power - that which influences decision-makers and holds formal power to account. To build this power, organising binds communities together in solidarity. It transforms individual agency and it builds the foundations for a more just society. Social change cannot rely on organising alone. But given the transformational nature of people power, it is concerning that so little grantmaking is going towards this work. The latest [Funding Justice](#) report found that just 0.2% of UK grantmaking went towards community organising last year.
3. **Funding that builds people power requires a significant strategic shift.** The end goal of community organising is to build power, rather than to serve predetermined objectives. This is a significant shift for most funders. It requires a fundamental rethink of time, risk, and impact.
 - a. Time, because this is long-term, messy, non-linear work.
 - b. Risk, because doing this well means ceding control to communities. Our current compliance and governance landscape makes this feel scary. But the big picture risks of *not* transforming society are far scarier.
 - c. Impact, because success is not captured through policy outcomes and measurable metrics alone. Although it is possible to get forensic about people power! This is a practice that organisers have thought honed across generations. Rather than imposing their own metrics downwards, funders have to start from a place of understanding the craft of organising.
4. **But, we stand at the edge of a moment of great opportunity - if we can work together.** While this feels scary, we are optimistic. Our funders are serious about redistributing power. And we have seen first-hand the incredible work taking place across the country. If we significantly shift resources over the long-term and provide strategic, wrap-around support, we have the potential to grow the field of community organising and materially improve life for communities across the UK. But we can't do this alone. The scale of the shift required cannot be met by one funder or one group. We must collectively invest capital in people power and stay the course.

CIVIC POWER FUND

What next for the Civic Power Fund?

Below is a snapshot of our operational plan, designed to achieve this aim and continue working towards our three core goals.

Building Organising Infrastructure across the UK	Building Civic Power in Place	Raising our Collective Voice to better resource organising
<p>Long term funding for 12 new partners through our Community Organising Infrastructure Strand.</p> <p>Three new funding rounds for the Alliance for Youth Organising, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 awards to grassroots groups to better understand their infrastructure needs. • An open funding round to provide ‘core’ funding to groups with an existing track record in youth organising. • An open funding round to ‘explore’ new opportunities and collaborations that could strengthen the field. <p>Phase 2 of the Migrant Power Project, continuing to provide long-term funding and support to selected organisations working to improve the lives of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and diaspora communities across the UK.</p> <p>A new partnership with the Chanel Foundation to strengthen feminist community organising across the UK. We will make infrastructure and seed investments and work with Act Build Change to provide wrap around coaching and support.</p>	<p>Continuing to fund and support groups building civic power across the Greater Manchester city region. This will be supplemented by a series of in-person convenings to help strengthen networks and the roll-out of a new learning framework informed by our partners.</p> <p>Continuing to fund and support groups building civic power across North Wales. This will include hands-on coaching and support to help organisations boost their capacity and a three-day community organising residential for groups across the region.</p> <p>Hosting a learning exchange with Matt Hildreth who is the Executive Director of Rural Organising, an organisation that supports rural organising across the USA. Matt will share lessons from his experience with the groups we support in rural areas.</p> <p>A new partnership with the National Lottery Community Foundation to strengthen the support provided to grassroots organising groups across the UK.</p>	<p>Publish Funding Justice 3, our annual survey of where social justice funding goes. This will deepen collective understanding of the field and catalyse action towards more and better funding for community organising.</p> <p>A new funder action network in partnership with Act Build Change and Impatience Earth. This will include in-person events with community organiser and scholar Marshall Ganz and hands on training for interested funders.</p> <p>New events to build momentum around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for democratic renewal and reform, lowering the barriers to civic participation. • Collaborations to meet the scale of our current challenges including responding to the far right and building community power and resilience. <p>A new partnership with the UCL Policy Lab and John Ellerman Foundation to explore the evidence around why campaigning and organising should be core strategies for funders interested in social justice.</p>
Supporting our Grantee Partners		
<p>Confirmed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the Governance Hub by building new partnerships and offering regular events alongside bespoke, 1-2-1 advice • Strategy and wellbeing grants for all grantee partners • Work with partners in Manchester and North Wales to develop a learning framework • Hire specialist support around learning and convening for our infrastructure partners • Continued active support and cohort building around our grantee partners • A new partnership with the National Lottery Community Foundation to strengthen the support provided to grassroots organising groups across the UK. 		

CIVIC POWER FUND

Strengthening the Civic Power Fund

- A new website and a new CRM system that supports our grantee-first application process
- A new programme with Act Build Change to embed a culture of care within the Civic Power Fund team.
- Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing training for staff and Trustees
- Updated HR, Governance, Safeguarding and Financial policies and processes
- Recruiting a Chief Finance and Operations Officer
- Focus on tightening and updating our strategy and structure so we are better able to respond to external shifts and support our growing grantmaking budget.

CIVIC POWER FUND

Administrative Details

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Company Number: 13635441

Charity Number: 1203784

Registered Office and Operational Address: 5-7 Tanner Street, London, SE1 3LE

Trustees:

- Dan Paskins, Chair, appointed 16 July 2024
- Nick Lowles, Treasurer, appointed 21 September 2021
- Martha Awojobi, appointed 2 October 2024
- Naimah Hassan, appointed 21 March 2023
- Nikki Williams, appointed 21 March 2023
- Patrick Williams, appointed 11 December 2024
- **Kirsty McNeill resigned as Chair on 11th July 2024.**
- **Catherine McDonald resigned as a trustee on 23rd August 2024.**

Principle Staff:

- Martha Mackenzie, Executive Director, appointed 10 January 2022
- Mohammed Afridi, Director of Organising, appointed 01 September 2022

Bankers:

ANNA
Unity Trust Bank

Auditors:

DSC Accountants and Auditors, Tattersall House, E Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5LT

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees (who are also directors of Civic Power Fund for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and enable them 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 detection and prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

CIVIC POWER FUND

The Trustees of the company who held office at the date of the approval of the Financial Statements as set out above confirm, so far as they are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Auditors

For the year ended 31 December 2024

DSC Accountants and Auditors was appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year.

We would like to thank everyone, and all organisations, who support our work – donors, staff and Trustees.

Our work would not be possible without you.

This report and the financial statements were approved by the Board on 17th October 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



Dan Paskins, Chair

17-10-2025

**CIVIC POWER FUND
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CIVIC POWER FUND**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Civic Power Fund (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

An overview of the scope of our audit

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

**CIVIC POWER FUND
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CIVIC POWER FUND**

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

**CIVIC POWER FUND
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CIVIC POWER FUND**

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the industry in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We focused on laws and regulations which could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006 and UK tax legislation. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, a review of correspondence with the Charity Commission, enquiries with management and the inspection of other regulatory and legal correspondence.

We addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and estimates and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and the completeness of income recognition by testing to supporting documentation and correspondence. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation.? This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Graham French

Graham French (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of DSC Accountants Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Tattersall House
East Parade
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 5LT

Date: 17th October 2025

CIVIC POWER FUND

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24 Total funds £	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	<u>440,200</u>	<u>1,172,215</u>	<u>1,612,415</u>	<u>1,608,623</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Finance and governance	3	140,648	139,848	280,496	13,009
Grants to institutions		129,330	667,870	797,200	686,276
Charitable spending		900	127,277	128,177	368,757
Raising funds		<u>-</u>	<u>43,161</u>	<u>43,161</u>	<u>45,577</u>
Total		<u>270,878</u>	<u>978,156</u>	<u>1,249,034</u>	<u>1,113,619</u>
NET INCOME					
Transfers between funds	14	<u>169,322</u> <u>(160,107)</u>	<u>194,059</u> <u>160,107</u>	<u>363,381</u> <u>-</u>	<u>495,004</u> <u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		9,215	354,166	363,381	495,004
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>263,342</u>	<u>232,060</u>	<u>495,402</u>	<u>398</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>272,557</u></u>	<u><u>586,226</u></u>	<u><u>858,783</u></u>	<u><u>495,402</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

CIVIC POWER FUND**BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11	804	1,323	2,127	1,659
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	-	500	500	-
Prepayments and accrued income		-	-	-	30,000
Cash at bank		<u>271,755</u>	<u>729,942</u>	<u>1,001,697</u>	<u>1,121,326</u>
		271,755	730,442	1,002,197	1,151,326
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(1)	(145,540)	(145,541)	(657,583)
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>271,754</u>	<u>584,902</u>	<u>856,656</u>	<u>493,743</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>272,558</u>	<u>586,225</u>	<u>858,783</u>	<u>495,402</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u><u>272,558</u></u>	<u><u>586,225</u></u>	<u><u>858,783</u></u>	<u><u>495,402</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	14			272,558	263,342
Restricted funds				<u>586,225</u>	<u>232,060</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u><u>858,783</u></u>	<u><u>495,402</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17th October 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Dan Paskins, Chair

17-10-2025

CIVIC POWER FUND**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24 £	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(118,306)	987,958
Tax paid		<u>-</u>	<u>(93)</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(118,306)</u>	<u>987,865</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(1,323)</u>	<u>(2,098)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(1,323)</u>	<u>(2,098)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			
		(119,629)	985,767
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>1,121,326</u>	<u>135,559</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>1,001,697</u></u>	<u><u>1,121,326</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

CIVIC POWER FUND

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24 £	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	363,381	495,004
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	855	439
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	29,500	(30,000)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>(512,042)</u>	<u>522,515</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	<u>(118,306)</u>	<u>987,958</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>1,121,326</u>	<u>(119,629)</u>	<u>1,001,697</u>
	<u>1,121,326</u>	<u>(119,629)</u>	<u>1,001,697</u>
Total	<u>1,121,326</u>	<u>(119,629)</u>	<u>1,001,697</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of preparing the financial statements**

Civic Power Fund is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on page 1 of the financial statements.

The financial statements of the charitable company, which meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis (see below) under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements and corresponding notes are prepared in the functional currency of the entity (GBP), and all monetary values are rounded to the nearest whole £1.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Any estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The significant estimates made in the preparation of the financial statements are:
Fixed assets - The charge in respect of periodic depreciation is derived after determining an estimate of an asset's expected useful life. The useful economic life of an asset is determined at the time the asset is acquired or brought into use and reviewed annually for appropriateness. The lives are based on historical experience together with anticipation of future events. Depreciation policy is detailed in the accounting policy for tangible fixed assets.

The critical accounting judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements are:

Income recognition - The charity recognises income on a receivable basis where the amount is reliably measurable and there is adequate probability of receipt. Income recognition policies are detailed in the accounting policy for income. When it is considered that the key criteria of entitlement, probability and measurement for income recognition are not fulfilled for a transaction, income recognition is delayed until these have been judged to have been met.

Useful life of fixed assets - The charity has used judgement when deciding on the depreciation rates used. These are reviewed on a regular basis.

CIVIC POWER FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Finance and governance - includes the costs of administering the charity and compliance with statutory requirements

Grants to institutions - Grants made in furthering the aims of the charity are recognised as an expense in the year of award and when communicated to the recipient in line with the SORP. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure

Charitable Spending - comprises direct and support costs including staff costs, human resources and other costs incurred towards achieving Civic Power Fund's charitable objectives

Raising funds - comprise costs incurred in generating donation income

Direct costs, including directly attributable salaries, are allocated on an actual basis to each expenditure heading.

Support costs are costs incurred which are not directly attributable to our charitable or fundraising activities, including for example finance, human resources and legal costs.

Governance and support costs have been allocated to expenditure headings on a basis relevant to the nature of the underlying cost, including headcount, time spent or in proportion to resources used.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Initial cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	25% Straight line
Computer equipment	25% Straight line

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

CIVIC POWER FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies

Foreign currency transactions are recorded at the exchange rate at the time of the transaction. Foreign currency balances are translated into sterling at the exchange rate at the balance sheet date. Resulting gains or losses are included in the statement of financial activities.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Financial instruments

The trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

Basic financial assets held by the charity are cash at bank and trade debtors.

Basic financial liabilities held by the charity include trade and other creditors (excluding deferred income).

Debtors

Trade debtors are recognised at the amount receivable and are carried at amortised cost less provisions for impairment.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts due.

Grant monies awarded to institutions in advance of the grant funding agreements are shown in debtors under prepayments and accrued income.

Creditors

Creditors (excluding deferred income) are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Trade and other creditors are recognised at the amount payable, and are carried at amortised cost.

Deferred Income

Grant funding that has been received in the period, which is due to be spent in a future accounting period has been deferred in accordance with the grant funding agreements.

CIVIC POWER FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Going concern

In determining the appropriate basis of preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024, the Trustees are required to consider whether Civic Power Fund can continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The Trustees have reviewed the financial position and financial forecasts, taking into account the levels of assets and liabilities, predicted funding and income streams, predicted expenditure and grant making activity, predicted cash flows, the systems of financial and risk management, and external factors such as the economic and regulatory landscape.

As a result of this review, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the approval of the financial statements.

The Trustees believe that there are no material uncertainties that could cast significant doubt over the ability to continue as a going concern and continue to support the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual accounts.

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24 £	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £
Grants	<u>1,612,415</u>	<u>1,608,623</u>

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 4) £	Grant funding of activities (see note 5) £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Finance and governance	226,539	-	53,957	280,496
Grants to institutions	-	797,200	-	797,200
Charitable spending	38,873	-	89,304	128,177
Raising funds	<u>43,161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,161</u>
	<u>308,573</u>	<u>797,200</u>	<u>143,261</u>	<u>1,249,034</u>

4. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24 £	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £
Staff costs	225,485	207,655
Consultancy	81,569	53,637
Stipends and general expenses	664	15,307
Depreciation	<u>855</u>	<u>439</u>
	<u>308,573</u>	<u>277,038</u>

5. GRANTS PAYABLE

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24 £	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £
Grants to institutions	<u>797,200</u>	<u>686,276</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****5. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued**

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24 £	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £
Act Build Change Ltd	61,350	70,600
All The Small Things CIC	15,500	20,000
Brighton and Hove Community Land Trust	20,000	20,000
Centre for Progressive Change	20,000	20,000
Centre for Theology and Community	38,620	25,842
Citizens UK	15,000	10,000
Coffee Afrik CIC	36,530	20,000
Collaborative Women	20,000	18,500
Common Good Foundation	20,000	20,000
Common Knowledge	1,000	16,875
E16 Community Land Trust	-	18,500
Greater Manchester Poverty Action	20,000	20,000
Greater Manchester Tenants Union	-	20,000
Good Faith Foundation	11,000	25,000
Housing Action Teeside	-	20,000
Southeast and East Asian Women's Association	-	18,500
Love and Power	26,000	50,000
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit	11,000	10,000
Nanny Solidarity Network CIC	-	20,000
Nurses United	13,500	30,000
Parents for Future Scotland	18,500	15,000
Growing Rights Instead of Poverty Partnership	20,000	20,500
Saathi House	22,300	17,000
South Norwood Community Kitchen	21,000	16,500
The Social Change Agency	600	22,084
The Rights Collective	-	20,000
Thrive Together Birmingham	-	10,000
Together Creating Communities	40,000	10,000
Triangular CIO	1,500	20,000
UK Youth Climate Coalition	15,500	12,000
Wards Corner Community Benefit Society	-	10,000
Workers Co-op	-	20,000
We Belong	12,000	10,000
Miscellaneous	(2,000)	9,375
The Social Change Nest	15,000	-
Revoke CIC	6,500	-
Kinfolk Network CIC	6,000	-
Kids of Colour CIC	11,000	-
Reclaim Project	21,000	-
African Institute for Social Development	1,000	-
African Rainbow Family	1,000	-
Anti-Trafficking and labour Exploitation Unit	1,000	-
Assist Sheffield	1,000	-
Asylum Link Merseyside	1,000	-
Asylum and Refugee Community Blackburn	1,000	-
Babbasa Youth Empowerments Project CIC	1,000	-
Bambuun CIC	1,000	-
Baxsan	1,000	-
Black Liberation Movement UK	1,000	-
Bristol Law Centre	1,000	-
Centre for Military Justice	1,000	-

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****5. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued**

Childrens Law Centre (NI) Ltd		
Citizens Advice Liverpool	1,000	-
Committee on the Administration of Justice	1,000	-
Community Law Service	1,000	-
Conversation Over Borders CIC	1,000	-
Coram Child Ltd	1,000	-
Council of Somali Organisations	1,000	-
Coventry Asylum and Refugee Action	1,000	-
Culture Bridge MCR	1,000	-
Da'aro Youth Project	1,000	-
Derbyshire Law Centre	1,000	-
Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support	1,000	-
F H Society	1,000	-
Father 2 Father Ltd	1,000	-
Gabriela Safehaven for Women	22,300	-
Halkevi - The Kurdish and Turkish Community Centre	1,000	-
Heaton Norris Pavillion Community Centre	1,000	-
Himmah	1,000	-
Hope Not Hate Charitable Trust	1,000	-
Hope Projects	1,000	-
Hull & East Yorkshire CU Ltd	1,000	-
Independent Workers Union of Great Britain	1,000	-
Intisaar	1,000	-
JCWI	2,000	-
Justright Scotland	1,000	-
Karima Institute	1,000	-
Land In Our Names CIC	1,000	-
Law Centres Federation	1,000	-
Make A Difference	1,000	-
Manchester Refugee Support Network	1,000	-
Migrant Centre NI	1,000	-
Migrants At Work	2,000	-
Migrant Helpline	1,000	-
Migrants Rights Network	1,000	-
Migrants Action	31,000	-
Migrants Organise	1,000	-
Muslim Youth Helpline	1,000	-
North East Law Centre	1,000	-
Network for Police Monitoring	1,000	-
Open Democracy Limited	1,000	-
Open Door North East	1,000	-
Open Collective	1,000	-
Public Law Project	1,000	-
Polish Migrants Organise For Change	3,000	-
Project Mama	1,000	-
Refugee Biryani & Bananas	1,000	-
Revive	1,000	-
Refugees Welcome	1,000	-
Refugee Action	2,000	-
Refugee Women Connect	1,000	-
Racial Justice Network	1,000	-
Rapar	1,000	-
Spark and Co Bame Hub	1,000	-
Speakeasy Law Centre	1,000	-
Southwark Law Centre	1,000	-
Show Racism the Red Card	1,000	-
St Augustines Centre Halifax	1,000	-

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****5. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued**

Support for Wigan Arrivals Project		
Stockport Race Equality Partnership		
Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers	1,000	-
Sarah Sawar	1,000	-
Waltham Forest Migrant Action	1,000	-
Women Asylum Seekers Together	1,000	-
West End Refugee Service	1,000	-
Welcome House	1,000	-
Yaseen Youth Development Ltd	1,000	-
Ubuntu Women Shelter	1,000	-
Unjust CIC	1,000	-
Wilson Solicitors LLP	1,000	-
The Black Wellbeing Collective CIC	1,000	-
Vauxhall Community Law Centre	1,000	-
Tenants Union UK	21,000	-
Yaran North West	1,000	-
Kent Refugee Action Network	30,000	-
Muslim Womens Council	21,300	-
JMB Consulting	1,200	-
Cymunedoli CYF	22,500	-
CAIA Park Partnership Ltd	22,500	-
	<u>797,200</u>	<u>686,276</u>

The information above is summarised below in terms of the funds that the grants have been paid from. See note 14 for descriptions of funds.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Community Action Fund	152,000	488,684
Manchester Fund	130,000	30,000
Warm Welcome	62,620	90,842
Emergency Action Fund	103,000	-
Migrant Power Project	220,250	-
General	5,830	76,750
Infrastructure	38,500	
Wales	85,000	
	<u>797,200</u>	<u>686,276</u>
Total	<u>797,200</u>	<u>686,276</u>

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance	Human	Other	Governance	Totals
	£	resources	£	costs	£
	£	£	£	£	£
Finance and governance	332	2,244	31,527	19,854	53,957
Charitable spending	-	74,805	14,499	-	89,304
	<u>332</u>	<u>77,049</u>	<u>46,026</u>	<u>19,854</u>	<u>143,261</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	8,400	9,000
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	11,454	3,774
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>855</u>	<u>439</u>

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31 December 2024.

Trustees' expenses

Trustee expenses totalled £91 for 1 trustee for travel for the year ended 31 December 2024.

9. STAFF COSTS

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	203,764	188,409
Social security costs	18,079	15,747
Other pension costs	<u>3,642</u>	<u>3,499</u>
	<u>225,485</u>	<u>207,655</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23
Support staff	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

The key management personnel of the charity comprise all staff.

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****9. STAFF COSTS - continued**

Pension expenses relating to the defined contribution plan form part of Core Costs and are allocated to Staff Costs within Direct Costs of Charitable Activities (see Note 5), and are charged to Restricted Fund - Core Costs.

10. REPORTING PERIOD AND COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

The financial statements for the period ending December 2023 cover a period of 15 months. The change in year end was made in order to bring the end of the reporting period in line with internal reporting for consistency. This means that comparative amounts presented in the financial statements (including the related notes) are not entirely comparable. Permission was obtained from Companies House to make this change.

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 January 2024	456	1,642	2,098
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>1,323</u>	<u>1,323</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>456</u>	<u>2,965</u>	<u>3,421</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2024	123	316	439
Charge for year	<u>114</u>	<u>741</u>	<u>855</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>237</u>	<u>1,057</u>	<u>1,294</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2024	<u>219</u>	<u>1,908</u>	<u>2,127</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>333</u>	<u>1,326</u>	<u>1,659</u>

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	3,053	-
Other creditors	764	606
Accruals and deferred income	<u>141,724</u>	<u>656,977</u>
	<u>145,541</u>	<u>657,583</u>

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	30,724	16,976
Deferred income due within one year	<u>111,000</u>	<u>640,000</u>
Total	<u>141,724</u>	<u>656,976</u>

Deferred income comprises grant income that was received in the year but the terms of the grant agreement state that the funds are to be spent during a period commencing after the balance sheet date.

	£
Deferred income balance as at 1 January 2024	640,000
Amount released to grant income in the year	(640,000)
Amount deferred in year	<u>111,000</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2024	<u>111,000</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	96,585	293,515	(181,935)	208,165
Designated - Grantmaking	45,000	-	(45,000)	-
Designated - General Charitable	121,757	-	(121,757)	-
Designated - Infrastructure	-	(38,500)	55,000	16,500
Designated - Wales	-	(85,692)	85,692	-
Designated - Manchester	-	-	<u>47,893</u>	<u>47,893</u>
	263,342	169,323	(160,107)	272,558
Restricted funds				
The Hub	14,515	38,635	-	53,150
Community Action Fund	115,389	(172,389)	57,000	-
Core Costs	2,519	125,179	-	127,698
Grassroots Organising	21,186	-	-	21,186
Warm Welcome	6,344	(6,344)	-	-
Manchester Fund	4,000	(106,107)	102,107	-
Alliance for Youth Organising	57,908	200,899	-	258,807
Funding Justice	6,508	25,919	-	32,427
US Learning Exchange	3,691	998	-	4,689
Emergency Action Fund	-	10,000	1,000	11,000
Migration Power Project	-	<u>77,268</u>	-	<u>77,268</u>
	<u>232,060</u>	<u>194,058</u>	<u>160,107</u>	<u>586,225</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>495,402</u>	<u>363,381</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>858,783</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General			
	440,200	(146,685)	293,515
Designated - Infrastructure	-	(38,500)	(38,500)
Designated - Wales	-	(85,692)	(85,692)
	<u>440,200</u>	<u>(270,877)</u>	<u>169,323</u>
Restricted funds			
The Hub	72,530	(33,895)	38,635
Community Action Fund	10,001	(182,390)	(172,389)
Core Costs	150,000	(24,821)	125,179
Warm Welcome	65,001	(71,345)	(6,344)
Manchester Fund	33,000	(139,107)	(106,107)
Alliance for Youth Organising	304,651	(103,752)	200,899
Funding Justice	62,000	(36,081)	25,919
US Learning Exchange	5,000	(4,002)	998
Emergency Action Fund	123,000	(113,000)	10,000
Migration Power Project	<u>347,032</u>	<u>(269,764)</u>	<u>77,268</u>
	<u>1,172,215</u>	<u>(978,157)</u>	<u>194,058</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,612,415</u>	<u>(1,249,034)</u>	<u>363,381</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued****Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.10.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	398	141,187	(45,000)	96,585
Designated - Grantmaking	-	-	45,000	45,000
Designated - General Charitable	-	161,757	(40,000)	121,757
	398	302,944	(40,000)	263,342
Restricted funds				
The Hub	-	14,515	-	14,515
Community Action Fund	-	75,389	40,000	115,389
Core Costs	-	2,519	-	2,519
Grassroots Organising	-	21,186	-	21,186
Warm Welcome	-	6,344	-	6,344
Manchester Fund	-	4,000	-	4,000
Alliance for Youth Organising	-	57,908	-	57,908
Funding Justice	-	6,508	-	6,508
US Learning Exchange	-	3,691	-	3,691
	-	192,060	40,000	232,060
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>398</u>	<u>495,004</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>495,402</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General			
	231,456	(90,269)	141,187
Designated - General Charitable	<u>216,686</u>	<u>(54,929)</u>	<u>161,757</u>
	448,142	(145,198)	302,944
Restricted funds			
The Hub	23,500	(8,985)	14,515
Community Action Fund	623,615	(548,226)	75,389
Core Costs	166,668	(164,149)	2,519
Grassroots Organising	33,357	(12,171)	21,186
Warm Welcome	107,500	(101,156)	6,344
Manchester Fund	34,000	(30,000)	4,000
Alliance for Youth Organising	60,000	(2,092)	57,908
Funding Justice	53,342	(46,834)	6,508
US Learning Exchange	<u>58,499</u>	<u>(54,808)</u>	<u>3,691</u>
	<u>1,160,481</u>	<u>(968,421)</u>	<u>192,060</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,608,623</u>	<u>(1,113,619)</u>	<u>495,004</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Unrestricted Funds

- Designated Funds

Grantmaking - Trustees had designated £45,000 from our free reserves towards grantmaking in 2024. This includes multi-year payments due to Nurses United and We Belong and a one off payment to reclaim.

General Charitable - The Civic Power Fund received several grants before it became a registered charity. The terms of these grants specify that the funding is unrestricted, but must be held separately within our accounts to ensure charitable spending. Of course, all our spending is charitable. However, we wanted to honour the grant terms in this 15 month set of accounts. In future accounts, this will not be necessary. Income remaining in these accounts is designated to our grantmaking and core costs (10% of the total grant amounts) in 2024.

Manchester - Trustees had designated £150,000 from our free reserves towards grantmaking in 2025. With the restricted funds being used, the remainder of this balance is to be designated instead of restricted.

Restricted Funds

- Community Action Fund - Specific income restricted to a) our Community Action Fund - the Civic Power Fund's first open and democratic participatory fund for grassroots organising - and b) our first five Infrastructure grants. The bulk of this funding came from the closure of Campaign Bootcamp. It was stewarded by the Barrow Cadbury Trust before the Civic Power Fund became a registered charity. The money went towards five key infrastructure partners and 18 grassroots partners (all listed in the report) as well as the running costs of the programme (17% of the Campaign Bootcamp resources). Income remaining in these accounts is restricted to the final multi-year grant payments in 2024.

- Core Costs - Specific income restricted to our core costs from Unbound Philanthropy and John Ellerman Foundation. These funders do not permit regranting, but want to invest in the running and operational costs of the Civic Power Fund as they support the underlying mission.

- Grassroots Organising - Funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for a project to explore and map funding for grassroots organising in the UK. Income remaining in these accounts is restricted to grantee support and wellbeing.

- Funding Justice - Specific income towards the Civic Power Fund's annual research mapping where UK social justice funding goes. A small number of key costs carried across to 2024.

- Manchester - Income from the Oglesby Charitable Trust restricted to our work in Manchester. This includes grantmaking and core costs (10% of total grant amount).

- The Hub - Specific income for the Civic Power Fund's Governance Hub. The funding forms part of the multi-year budget to support this vital work. It primarily goes towards consultancy support from the Hub's primary legal advisor.

- Alliance for Youth Organising - A new intergenerational collective that aims to make strategic funding decisions to support youth organising infrastructure. The initial investment from Blgrave Trust, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Paul Hamlyn Foundation is for 2024-2026, but the collective aim is to seed a long-term initiative that will help transform the sector.

CIVIC POWER FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

- US Learning Exchange - Specific income towards the Civic Power Fund's US Learning Exchange in November 2023. A small number of key costs carried across to 2024.

- Warm Welcome Campaign - Income from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Trust for London, and JRSST-CT towards a community organising pilot in Warm Welcome spaces. The project spans 2023 and 2024 and funding is primarily being regranted towards partners and their core costs.

- Emergency Action Fund - Funding from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Legal Education Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and Paul Hamlyn Foundation to provide emergency funding to groups impacted by the riots in summer 2024.

- Migration Power Project - Multiyear income from several funders to support a specific project to resource and provide wrap-around support to grassroots groups organising to improve the mental, physical and material wellbeing of diaspora communities and build social cohesion.

Transfers between funds

Various interfund transfers were made in the financial year from unrestricted funds to restricted funds to cover the full cost of activity. Where restricted funds make a contribution to core costs these have been recognised as expenditure within the fund inline with funder agreements.

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Other than as disclosed in Note 9, there are no related party transactions.

CIVIC POWER FUND**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24 £	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Grants	<u>1,612,415</u>	<u>1,608,623</u>
Total incoming resources	1,612,415	1,608,623
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	203,764	188,409
Social security	18,079	15,747
Pensions	3,642	3,499
Consultancy	81,569	53,637
Stipends and general expenses	664	15,307
Fixtures and fittings	114	123
Computer equipment	741	316
Grants to institutions	<u>797,200</u>	<u>686,276</u>
	1,105,773	963,314
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	332	235
Human resources		
Consultancy	77,049	68,402
Other		
Telephone	1,592	-
Postage and stationery	57	-
Stipends and general expenses	352	14,407
Rent	8,791	3,328
Travel and subsistence	16,439	29,755
Staff training	4,453	2,966
Subscriptions	4,125	5,470
Entertaining	815	12,258
Sundry	8,177	710
Website design	<u>1,225</u>	<u>-</u>
	46,026	68,894
Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	8,400	9,000
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	<u>11,454</u>	<u>3,774</u>
	19,854	12,774

CIVIC POWER FUND

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	YEAR ENDED 31.12.24 £	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £
Total resources expended	<u>1,249,034</u>	<u>1,113,619</u>
Net income	<u><u>363,381</u></u>	<u><u>495,004</u></u>

CIVIC POWER FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1203784

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 13635441 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1203784

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023 FOR
CIVIC POWER FUND**

DSC Accountants Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Tattersall House
East Parade
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 5LT

Civic Power Fund Trustee Report and Financial Statements

01 October 2022 - 31 December 2023

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Foreword from Staff and Trustees

This Annual Report includes several significant milestones for the Civic Power Fund.

It is our first full annual report and audited accounts.

It covers the period in which we registered as a charity.

And most importantly, it sets out our first £1 million awarded to community organising groups across the UK.

We hope in reading this Annual Report you spot one enduring theme: our unwavering commitment to the groups we serve and our determination to raise the money they need to thrive.

Our job is to make more money available to build civic power across the UK. We've seen first-hand how ready communities are for investment - and how transformative it could be. Take South Norwood Community Kitchen, who won a massive council pay out for social housing residents plagued by poor conditions.

Or Parents For Future Scotland, who secured Glasgow Council investment in tackling the air pollution that is harming the city's most vulnerable children.

Or Nanny Solidarity Network and the Centre for Progressive Change who are building powerful allies in support of better pay and conditions for the precarious workers that our society relies on.

All across the UK, groups are bringing together communities of commonplace or common struggle to win change that matters to them. You'll see many more examples on the pages that follow.

It is now time to unleash a scale of investment that matches our communities' ambitions. We know many communities feel disconnected from our politics. We also know these same communities are often let down by those in power. In response, they are coming together: lifting up their friends and families; providing their own solutions to tough, shared challenges; and starting to win change for those most in need.

We have a collective responsibility to invest in these efforts. By doing so, we can transform the lives of individuals, our communities, and eventually our democracy. Looking ahead, we are also starting to focus on our own infrastructure - so we can better serve these communities.

We need to strengthen our operational footprint, so we can become a robust organisation that our partners can depend on long into the future.

You will see throughout this report how we are investing to ensure a sustainable and values driven Fund. You will also see how the staff and trustees are working together to take managed risks that serve those most in need.

Finally, we hope you will share in some of our pride at what our small and ambitious team has achieved over the past 15 months.

We couldn't have done anything in this report without the community of thousands of passionate, committed and willing individuals who generously shared their time, energy and wisdom.

This community has welcomed our small team into their networks, helping us meet goals well beyond our size. We are eternally grateful and so excited about what our shared future holds.

Civic Power Fund in Numbers

- Awarded c. **£1 million** in multi-year grants to **35** grantee partners.¹ As our own resources expand, we are growing the number of multi-year grants we award; this is key to building long-term power. Throughout this report you'll read more about the amazing partners we have the privilege to work with.
- Pooled funding from **21** separate donors. This includes multi-year grants through to 2029 and small, one-off contributions. As we grow, we will continue to stress that these different types of funding partners are equally important. It is this plurality of donors that ensures we shift resources at scale, learn together, and stay accountable to our grantee partners first.
- Advised over **20** grassroots groups through the Civic Power Fund Governance Hub. This specialist legal hub is supporting groups with their key governance and strategy challenges. We also built a new partnership with Brevio to provide robust yet non-invasive due diligence checks. We've supported almost **100** groups to access these checks, so they can use findings to improve their governance and financial controls. Combined with the Governance Hub, this approach means we can work with our partners to strengthen their controls and boost their capacity.
- Ran our first democratic and participatory fund. Over **7,000** people expressed an interest in; **900** groups applied to; and **89** groups – from **42** different cities, towns and villages – were shortlisted for the Community Action Fund. Each shortlisted group was supported to co- create a durable Grant Memo. We saw first-hand both the incredible grassroots organising work happening across the country and the huge lack of accessible, long-term funding for this work. The Fund received **100%** positive feedback from rejected second stage applicants and **77%** positive feedback from rejected first stage applicants.
- Recruited **7** Community Action Fund Panellists - a team of community organisers who built and delivered a participatory grantmaking process. They awarded grants to 18 different grassroots groups from across the UK. **100%** of Panellists gave positive feedback on their experience.
- Where we were not able to fund groups directly, we worked with them to secure alternative sources of income. As part of this, we have convinced several key funding partners to accept Civic Power Fund Grant Memos in lieu of applications. At least **eight** additional partners have been funded a total of **£400,000** through this route.
- Launched a new Alliance for Youth Organising with Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and The Blgrave Trust. This independent, intergenerational Alliance will make collective, long-term decisions to boost youth organising infrastructure across the UK. **150** individuals applied to join this **nine** member collective.
- Launched a second landmark study of where UK social justice funding goes. Together with The Hour is Late, we found that just **0.3%** of grants from UK social justice funders are going towards community organising and the vast majority of social justice funding is going service delivery or 'inside game' work at a national level. Over **200** people attended the launch of Funding Justice 2. We are now working with over **20** funders to help change practice based on lessons from the report and our early grantmaking.
- **17** charities were involved in PowerUp: Organising in Big Charities, a new project to help large charities interested in organising to 'get it right'. Over 20 large charities went on to form a new Community of Practice to influence and inform their organisations.
- Hosted our first learning exchange, taking **14** community organisers and **five** funders to New York to learn from US organising and grow collective ambition around our UK capacity. We estimate that this trip helped to raise an additional **£2 million** in funding for UK community organising led by disadvantaged communities.

¹ The total grant contracts awarded were c. £1 million, with £686,000 distributed in this accounting period.

Statement of Charitable Objects

The Civic Power Fund is a charity that focuses on developing the capacity and skills of the members of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in the United Kingdom through funding community organising.

Our objects are:

“To develop the capacity and skills of the members of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in the United Kingdom by providing project grant funding and support so that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.”

We aim to ensure that those facing disadvantage have the power to shape their quality of life, community and future.

Our mission is to build this power through community organising.

This means bringing people who share common challenges due to age, location, sexual orientation, gender, religion, class, and race together to fully participate in democracy and win lasting change.

Community organising is a practice that builds relationships within communities. It helps individuals participate fully in democracy, through understanding who and what has the power to deliver change - and both engaging with and challenging these structures.

Through this participation, it helps communities secure lasting change that improves their lives. It also makes our democratic institutions more responsive to the rights and needs of those left behind because of economic or social disadvantage.

When targeted at these communities, community organising is a vital charitable practice that can both achieve change and deliver wider public benefit through strengthened civic bonds, diversity, and inclusion.

However, despite the enormous potential impact of community organising, it is underfunded. This is especially true of organising led by communities already disadvantaged because of their age, location, sexual orientation, gender, religion, class, and race.

The Civic Power Fund aims to change this by increasing charitable resources for organising within these communities and providing wrap-around support to boost their capacity.

In setting the Civic Power Fund’s strategy each year, we have regard to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees review the strategy to ensure that it falls within the Charity’s charitable objectives and aims.

Throughout this report, we may use terms that are better understood by our partners to describe our work.

This includes:

- “grassroots” as shorthand for local community organising led by people experiencing the issue they are organising around
- “minoritised and marginalised” in place of disadvantaged
- “emergent” and “pioneering” to mean new and innovative
- “systemic change” to mean lasting, structural change that benefits disadvantaged communities.

We also use “partners” to describe both the groups we fund and our core funder partners.

Objectives, Activities and Impact

Our Vision

A world where every person has the power to shape their quality of life, community and future.

Our Mission

To build lasting civic power through community organising.

By investing in grassroots organising, we can unleash the power of people to improve their lives and their communities and create common cause in pursuit of the social, environmental, and economic justice vital to a flourishing democracy.

Our Values

Because we meet the world as it is not as we wish it to be, the values that guide our work are as important as the ends we seek.

- **Self-determination.** We trust people to build strategies and make decisions to shape the institutions, actions and policies impacting their lives.
- **Solidarity.** We help to build solidarity within and between communities to achieve the collective action vital to shifting the balance of power through democracy.
- **Justice.** We work to dismantle the barriers to racial, economic, gender and LGBTQ+ justice that are standing in the way of full democratic participation and we foster representation and liberation through all our work.
- **Dignity.** We value our common humanity and act with kindness, care and respect to build a democracy that involves and brings out the best in all of us.
- **Humility.** We are committed to listening to, learning from and following the lead of the communities, groups and individuals doing the work.
- **Bravery.** We recognise that building power is hard and takes time and courage, so we will challenge dishonesty, fraud and disinformation and we will reward risk and embrace failure - and learn from both.
- **Hope.** We are optimistic about the future because we passionately believe that organised people have the power to shape their lives and the world for the better.

Our Goals

Goal 1: Building Organising Infrastructure

By 2030, we aim to have built a well-resourced ecosystem of diverse and impactful community organising infrastructure groups. These groups are training and supporting grassroots community organisers across the UK and collaborating nationally and globally to win change.

Why?

Community organising infrastructure provides two vital functions:

1. training the next generation of organisers and leaders
2. curating places and spaces for communities to come together and amplify their impact.

Yet infrastructure work is significantly underfunded, especially when led by minoritised and marginalised communities. This means organisations are unable to build and grow, limiting the potential of groups to win the change they seek.

Our central thesis

Innovative community organising is taking place across the country. This is often led by women, people of colour, immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities, and wider minoritised and marginalised communities. Yet this work is significantly underfunded, meaning these organisers and their organisations are unable to build and grow. We know that organisers are best placed to build the infrastructure they need. By investing in them for the long-term, we can nurture the next generation of leaders, who in turn will help build the winning coalitions vital to lasting change.

So we...

- Provide long-term, flexible funding and wrap-around support to emergent organising infrastructure across the UK
- Create places and spaces for these organisations to come together and learn from one another and build networks
- Incubate innovative ideas and actions to strengthen the UK community organising field; championing organisers' ideas, taking risks and finding opportunities to help grow and sustain their work

Activities and Impact

Supporting Community Organising Infrastructure

Central to our work under Goal 1 is funding emergent community organising infrastructure.

In 2022, we worked with the team at **Campaign Bootcamp**² - a pioneering campaigning infrastructure organisation that made a difficult decision to close - to enable this. With vital support from the **Barrow Cadbury Trust**, we stewarded Campaign Bootcamp's remaining financial resources and used them to boost organising infrastructure and grassroots action across the UK.

Key to this was working with community organisers to identify infrastructure partners for the Civic Power Fund. We gave 5 grants to groups centring minoritised and marginalised communities and aiming to boost collective power and agency through community organising training, tools and support.

For example, we provided a multi-year grant to **Act Build Change**. Act Build Change work to make community organising accessible to all through training, coaching and collective care. Our support helped this organisation invest in their core operations, giving them a strong platform from which to engage with a much wider range of groups. Over the past two years, they have grown in scale and impact, using this robust foundation and their exemplary leadership to work with a diverse range of groups and become one of the UK's most trusted community organising bodies.

² In the Financial Statements, the Campaign Bootcamp income is recorded as Community Action Fund. This income was split between our infrastructure strand and the Community Action Fund open fund launched in December 2022.

We also provided a one-off grant to the tech cooperative **Common Knowledge**. They used this funding to kick-off 'Project Groundwork', which is identifying common digital challenges faced by organisers and developing open-source tools to overcome them. This has enabled Common Knowledge to break down silos and make their incredible knowledge available for free, ensuring grassroots and emergent groups can access and learn from it.

In a recent independent report commissioned by the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**, the Civic Power Fund's contribution to community organising infrastructure was praised as exemplary.

*"CPF is an exciting, innovative and much needed addition to the social justice sector. It is strongly values-led and has set out to build long-term capacity, understanding and infrastructure for organising and movement building, so community power is adequately resourced and can thrive. It is committed to shift power from traditional power holders towards the grassroots and is doing this in a thoughtful, participatory and trust-based manner."*³

Feedback from our infrastructure partners also suggests that we are getting some of this right.

"Just to say thank you so much for all your hard work and support this year from all the team on our side. A lot of funders use the phrase "partners" to describe those they support. Sometimes it feels more like a pose than a reality. In the case of Civic Power Fund, it is absolutely the case. We know you have our backs and will operate with solidarity, compassion and if the moment demands it, fierce defence of our interests and the interests of those in movements for social change. I would go further and say our relationship feels like one of genuine friendship and mutual aid, a relationship I hope that will only deepen over time." **Civic Power Fund Infrastructure Partner**

"I wanted to reach out to express our gratitude for everything you've done for us. It's no secret that we were super sceptical about sourcing funding because of the fear around compromising our message, who we were and what we wanted to achieve. I can say without a shadow of a doubt that these fears have been totally alleviated. We have been so thankful for the constant and non contingent support the civic power fund has given us - whether in the form of grants or connections. That support has been instrumental in everything that we do, towards community campaigns and engaging many more people in grassroots community politics than we thought possible. In 2024 we will be expanding and looking to recruit more members to support us with capacity - we would never have got to this point were it not for you guys." **Civic Power Fund Infrastructure Partner**

³ Lena Baumgartner and Alice Sachrajda, Shifting Power: Exploring the value of pooled funds in the UK funding landscape, commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, February 2024.

Community Organising Infrastructure Grants

Organisation	Issues	Location	Summary	Grant Amount	Grant Duration
Act Build Change 1	Community Organising	UK-Wide	Act Build Change exists to make community organising accessible to all and build a network of leaders committed to justice. They teach people how to build relationships and win change.	£90,000.00	3 years (2022-2025)
Common Knowledge	Digital Organising	UK-Wide	Common Knowledge is a not-for-profit cooperative that uses digital technology to strengthen the impact and capacity of social movements. They work with grassroots organisers and communities to build power and achieve change.	£15,000.00	1 year (2022-2023)
Love & Power	Community Organising, Gender Justice	UK-Wide	Love & Power is an intersectional feminist organisation that exists to support women to take action on the issues that matter to them. They are building a grassroots movement with a mass membership that trains, supports, connects, and organises feminists.	£75,000.00	3 years (2022-2025)
Nurses United 1 (NEON Fiscal Host)	Community Organising, Workplace Organising, Racial Justice	UK-Wide	Nurses United is helping nurses become active in their workplaces and communities through organising training and community campaigns. This includes their pioneering Nurses of Colour organising programme.	£15,000.00	1 year (2022-2023)
Nurses United 2	Community Organising, Workplace Organising, Racial Justice	UK-Wide	Nurses United is helping nurses become active in their workplaces and communities through organising training and community campaigns. This includes their pioneering Nurses of Colour organising programme.	£30,000.00	2 years (2023-2025)
Wards Corner	Community Ownership	London	The Wards Corner Community Benefit Society (CBS) was founded in 2022 by a coalition of grassroots groups and campaigning organisations in Tottenham who have been fighting to save the market and surrounding buildings from demolition for 20 years.	£10,000.00	1 year (2022-2023)

Alliance for Youth Organising

In late 2023, we worked with the **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**, the **Paul Hamlyn Foundation**, and the **Blagrave Trust** to pool resources behind a new **Alliance for Youth Organising**. The goal of this Alliance is to build an intergenerational collective who will invest to strengthen youth organising infrastructure.

Young people are at the forefront of some of our most important struggles. Meanwhile rising housing, education, and living costs threaten their futures, and a decimated youth sector is left firefighting on a day to day basis.

Our hope is that the Alliance for Youth Organising can shift power and decision-making to the people who know what youth organising needs to thrive. By pooling and targeting resources, it is key to attracting new investments and having impact at scale. And it is an opportunity to nurture the networks that youth organisers have told us they need to do their best work

Following applications from over 150 people, 9 incredible organisers and campaigners were selected to shape and build this exciting new opportunity. They hail from all across the UK and have deep roots in the different traditions of community organising and youth activism.

The Alliance have hosted their first team-building retreats and now are working together to design this powerful new collective and shape the funding opportunity.

We are in awe of the skills, talent and passion of the collective and the vision they are starting to develop. Their approach to the work is generative and joyful, and we know they are going to have an enormous impact on both youth organising and how we collectively fund this work.

Governance Hub

The Civic Power Fund **Governance Hub (the Hub)** is part of our wrap-around support package for grantee partners.

The aim of the Hub is to empower organisations to make decisions that achieve their objectives and do not expose them to unnecessary risk. We want them to feel confident in doing their core work, and not curtailed by a lack of knowledge about governance and compliance.

Both factors are incredibly important as we support work that is regularly under scrutiny as part of a shrinking civil society space and a constantly changing regulatory environment. We also fund a lot of groups which are non-charities, so this extra layer of governance support helps to strengthen their work and support our own financial and regulatory controls.

Currently, the Hub is led by Matt Howgate - an experienced public lawyer and litigator who has worked as an organisational development and compliance consultant for the last 15 years. Joy Mathew, the Civic Power Fund's new Operations and Grants officer who has recently passed her LPC, now assists Matt.

Since the launch of the Hub, we have had positive and regular engagement from grantee partners. 20 partners have used the service to address issues of which they have no legal knowledge. It is our most requested wrap-around support service, and the need and gratitude when we speak to partners about the Hub is palpable. It has also allowed us to boost the capacity of emergent organisations, ensuring that they can access a much wider pool of charitable resources.

One of our grantee partners told us that:

Getting a "here is a pro-bono lawyer to book a meeting with" email was genuinely thrilling. This is precisely the sort of thing that is good for us and other movement actors to have access to and shows a lot of careful thought into what is actually useful. The legal and policy side of things can sometimes cause considerable concern. Having organising-aligned legal expertise is always wonderful!

We have worked with other organisational support organisations to share lessons and lend the Hub services, including the New Economy Organisers Network (NEON), Sistren Legal Collective, and The Movements Trust.

Goal 2: Building Civic Power in Place

By 2030, we aim to have built a strong and diverse network of local groups who are accountable to their community and building power through organising. These groups are working together to win change and holding local and national decision makers to account.

Why?

Communities across the UK are disconnected from their democracy. This means our politics consistently works against them. Minoritised and marginalised communities are uniquely let down by our systems.

[Evidence shows](#) that local groups trusted by and rooted in their community are uniquely well placed to build and hold the power of these communities, winning change that matters to them and contributing to long-term systemic shifts in policy and our politics.

Our central thesis

Organising builds the power of people to take action on the issues that matter to them. It transforms individual and community outcomes and builds the foundations from which successful movements can grow.

All across the UK, groups are trying to organise their communities. But these groups are starved of cash and without the support to deepen and grow their impact. By combining long-term, flexible funding with collaboration, capacity building, and cohort building, we can build thriving nodes of civic power and show others what is possible.

So we...

- Identify key geographies with unique potential for impact and learning
- Provide coordinated long-term resources to grassroots groups to organise their community
- Support groups to boost internal organising capacity and secure independent revenue
- Through network effects, encourage cross-geography action and share lessons that can be replicated across the UK and globally

Activities and Impact Building

Power in Manchester

Along with North East Wales, **Greater Manchester** is one of the key areas where the Civic Power Fund concentrates its grantmaking.

Our aim is to build deep nodes of civic power in place that can thrive for decades to come. We also hope to learn lessons from this place-based organising that we can help take to scale across the UK.

We spent much of 2022 and 2023 learning from organising groups in Manchester. Many hardworking and inspiring groups generously shared their time and insights. We prioritised getting to know the work, the organisations, and the individuals, understanding what support they need to thrive.

We learnt early on that we couldn't rush in with funding. It was vital we first got to know the area and the groups involved.

As part of this, we worked with the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** and **#BAMEOnline** (now **Uncharitable**) to bring together organisers and funders in Greater Manchester. In March 2023, around 40 community organisers and changemakers came together with 12 funders in central Manchester. We asked attendees to enter the space as individuals - cognizant of their institutional power, but coming together in solidarity and curious to learn. They spent the day sharing lessons and building vital relationships.

Following this, we identified 6 key partners who are doing incredible work to build the power of minoritised and marginalised communities. These partners coalesce around racial and housing justice, employment rights, and dignity in poverty. You can read more about their work below.

At the end of 2023 we awarded multi-year grants to these partners and put in place a three-year learning framework to help them and us measure the growth of civic power.

Manchester Grants

Organisation	Issues	Location	Summary	Grant Amount	Grant Duration
			Centre for Progressive Change is building a		
Centre for Progressive Change	Community Organising, Employment, Fighting Poverty	Manchester, North West England	campaign to win #SafeSickPay. They are providing training, support, and networking opportunities to local groups and campaigners in Bury, Bolton, Rochdale and the surrounding areas.	£60,000.00	3 years (2023-2026)
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit	Immigration Rights, Housing	Manchester, North West England	Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit exists to advise, support, represent and campaign with people subject to immigration control.	£30,000.00	3 years (2023-2026)

Greater Manchester Poverty Action	Employment, Fighting Poverty	Manchester, North West England	Greater Manchester Poverty Action's vision is of a Manchester free from poverty, where residents can realise their potential and access the benefits of living in a diverse and vibrant region.	£60,000.00	3 years (2023-2026)
Greater Manchester Tenants Union	Housing	Manchester, North West England	GMTU is a democratic, member-led union, working across the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester. They organise and represent members in the private and social rented sector, fighting for safe, secure and affordable housing for everyone.	£60,000.00	3 years (2023-2026)
Kids of Colour (scheduled for 2024)	Racial Justice, Young People	Manchester, North West England	Kids of Colour is a project for young people of colour aged 25 and under to explore 'race', identity and culture. They create spaces for young people to feel supported, validated and celebrated, while also working to challenge the racism that affects young people and their communities.	£30,000.00	3 years (2024-2027)
We Belong	Community Organising, Immigration Rights	London, Manchester, North West England	We Belong is a migrant youth-led organisation, campaigning for the rights of young migrants and developing young leaders by providing advice, support and training.	£30,000.00	3 years (2023-2026)

Community Action Fund

In 2022-2023 we ran our first open grant round. The **Community Action Fund** aimed to find and fund some of the best, emergent grassroots organising work happening across the UK.

We opened the Fund in December 2022. Over 7,000 people expressed an interest in the Fund; 900 groups applied to it; and 89 groups - from 42 different cities, towns and villages - were shortlisted. We centred accessible grantmaking practice throughout - keeping the application short and giving groups the option of video or voice recording instead of text.

Each shortlisted group was then supported to co-create a durable Grant Memo. This meant the Civic Power Fund team sitting down with them to understand their work. This gave them something tangible to take away from the process but also reduced application burdens. Regardless of their background or experience, we helped them tell the story of their work.

We saw first-hand both the incredible grassroots organising work happening across the country and the huge lack of accessible, long-term funding for this work. We captured key lessons throughout and shared these widely with funders and social justice actors.

The Fund received 100% positive feedback from rejected second stage applicants and 77% positive feedback from rejected first stage applicants.

We recruited a team of community organisers who built and delivered this participatory grantmaking process. These experts designed the scoring criteria and then made collective decisions based on their deep knowledge of organising. This ensured we shifted power and resources to those who are on the frontlines, doing the hard work of building power. They awarded grants to 18 different grassroots groups from across the UK.

100% of Panellists gave positive feedback on their experience.

We have since been working with these 18 partners to understand the impact of the funding and provide wrap-around support to boost their capacity.

We have heard how...

- A team in **Grimsby** was able to train over 42 community leaders, and are now working closely with the council to embed key community change
- **Parents for Future Scotland** have brought together 25 schools and 15 community groups to win Scotland-wide progress on air pollution
- **Triangular CIO** has brought together migrant-led groups in the North East behind one powerful policy platform backed by local people
- **Coffee Afrik** has built the power and agency of migrant women in East London, helping them advance a court case to end the horrendous housing discrimination they are subject to
- **Collaborative Women** were able to organise survivors of domestic violence in Stretford, to build a common campaign that reached the Mayor of Manchester

To name just a few incredible examples!

These groups all struggled to access funding prior to the Community Action Fund, yet over the past year their work and impact has skyrocketed.

We have captured below some quotes from our partners outlining this impact.

“As I said to you there the whole programme is down to Civic Power taking a punt on us. You were our first funders and the funding gave us time to grow and engage in a way we couldn't have done without funding so a huge THANK YOU to you guys!” **Community Action Fund partner**

“We purchased 4 people swimwear in advance of the trip - and we were able to hire dressing gowns for everyone to access the spa at the hotel. It is not possible to overstate the significance of this. For some, it was the first time they have ever swam. For others, it was a first swim again after operations that left physical and mental scars. Having cash behind the bar meant people were able to be at home - I noted one person got a hot chocolate each evening to take up to bed. We didn't feel impoverished in the space. We were able to eat what was needed in the evening, the whole three courses. To not be limited in what we could have... a momentary ease in the pain and stigma that the system inflicts. Please continue to avail such funds to groups... it really means a lot.” **Community Action Fund Partner on their wellbeing grant**

“I just wanted to mention that the session you hosted last night was the best evening session I've had in the last couple of years! I really felt like CPF's approach was like nothing I've experienced before. It's really difficult to keep people engaged at that time in the evening, especially if they have been working virtually all day) but the 1-2-1's in the breakout, presentation structure and emphasis on collaboration kept the session interesting and informative.” **Community Action Panel Member**

“I found the time invested by the CPF team to create the right environment for the panellists to make thoughtful decisions as a cohort made the experience really enjoyable and really one of the best grant-assessment processes I've ever participated in.” **Community Action Panel Member**

“I never once felt like I was being made to do something for no reason or like I was ticking boxes just for the sake of it. You can tell this fund was set up by people who know what it's like to be an activist. I really felt like you cared, even when you said no.” **Community Action Fund applicant**

Community Action Fund Grants

Organisation	Issues	Location	Summary	Grant Amount	Grant Duration
			All The Small Things CIC is a social enterprise based in St Mark's Church, Stoke on Trent. They bring together disadvantaged individuals in Shelton to build community and win change.		
All the Small Things CIC	Fighting Poverty, Community Organising	Stoke on Trent, Midlands		£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Brighton and Hove Community Land Trust (BHCLT)	Community Ownership, Community Organising	Brighton, South East	Brighton and Hove Community Land Trust is organising communities in housing need. They aim to provide alternatives to the current housing market and to win decent and affordable homes.	£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)

Brilliant Burnley (Social Change Agency Fiscal Host)	Community Organising	Burnley, North West England	Brilliant Burnley is a grassroots group aiming to tackle polarisation and win change. They are building community organising capacity within Burnley and training, connecting, and supporting local leaders from disadvantaged backgrounds.	£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Coffee Afrik CIC	Immigration Rights, Racial Justice, Fighting Poverty, Young People, Diaspora Organising	London	Coffee Afrik grew out of the Somali community in East London. This young collective now works with marginalised groups across the area. They collaborate with women, young people, and people recently released from prison.	£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Collaborative Women	Gender Based Violence	Manchester, North West England	Collaborative Women unites women experiencing gender-based harm across Greater Manchester. They work with women made homeless, women in the criminal justice system, and refugee women seeking protection.	£18,500.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Common Good Foundation	Community Organising, Fighting Poverty	Grimsby, Yorkshire	The Common Good Foundation is building collective, democratic power in Grimsby. The local community has so much to offer, but rapid de-industrialisation has left too many people behind. The town is fighting back.	£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
E16 Community Land Trust Ltd	Community Ownership, Housing	London	E16 Community Land Trust aims to ensure regeneration in Newham works for the community. They are a democratic, member-led organisation fighting for affordable homes.	£18,500.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Growing Rights Instead of Poverty Partnership (GRIPP)	Human Rights, Fighting Poverty	UK-Wide	Growing Rights Instead of Poverty Partnership is a coalition led by communities facing human rights violations within the UK. Their groups represent communities facing poverty and deprivation.	£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Housing Action Teesside (HAT) (Open Collective Fiscal Host)	Housing, Fighting Poverty	Tees Valley, North East England	Housing Action Teesside is a member-led union organising renters in need across the Tees Valley.	£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)

Nanny Solidarity Network CIC	Immigration Rights, Gender Justice, Workplace Organising	London, UK-Wide	The Nanny Solidarity Network provides support and space for collective action for nannies and au pairs across the UK. They began as a solidarity fund during the first lockdown, which left many nannies and au pairs jobless or homeless. They have grown into a worker-led coalition, providing vital services and forming a nation-wide employment rights campaign.	£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Parents For Future Scotland (Open Collective Fiscal Host)	Climate Action, Parents	Glasgow, Scotland	Parents For Future Scotland is a parent-led group encouraging intergenerational engagement in the climate crisis. Based in Glasgow, they are working with parents and schools from non-typical backgrounds to help children find their voice on climate issues.	£15,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Saathi House	Immigration Rights, Racial Justice, Gender Justice	Birmingham, Midlands	Saathi House works with local women and young people from Aston, Birmingham. They aim to elevate the status and position of migrant women and young people from within these communities.	£17,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
South Norwood Community Kitchen	Immigration Rights, Young People, Fighting Poverty, Housing	London	South Norwood Community Kitchen uses food to bring people together. They focus first on meeting the needs of their community. They then work to build power and solidarity across a range of common experiences.	£16,500.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Southeast and East Asian Women's Association (Kanlungan Fiscal Host)	Immigration Rights, Gender Justice, Gender Based Violence	UK-Wide, London	Gabriela Safehaven is a collective of women from within the Filipino and Southeast Asian Community in the UK. They are self organising to 'emancipate themselves from the patriarchy, misogyny and racism that holds them back'.	£18,500.00	1 year (2023-2024)

The Rights Collective (Social Change Nest Fiscal Host)	Racial Justice, Immigration Rights, Gender Justice, Diaspora Organising	London, UK-Wide	The Rights Collective is a volunteer-led South Asian collective creating space for solidarity and transformation. They seek to address unjust power hierarchies that sow the seeds of division across the South Asian diaspora.	£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Triangular CIO	Immigration Rights	Tyne and Wear, North East England	Triangular CIO is a network of volunteers and professionals who support migrant communities in Tyne and Wear. They are building a network of Refugee Community Organisations - bringing together lived experience-led services to build power and influence decision-making.	£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
UK Youth Climate Coalition (UKYCC)	Young People, Climate Action	UK-Wide	The UK Youth Climate Coalition is a non-hierarchical, youth-led organisation of 18-29 year olds from around the UK. They are mobilising and empowering young people to take climate action.	£12,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Workers Co-Op	Community Ownership, Workplace Organising	Rochdale, North West England, UK-wide	The Workers Co-Op is a new federation of worker cooperatives, born out of a Workers Co-Op in Rochdale. They aim to bring together the 400 Workers Co-Ops across the UK to build a movement that can organise on common issues.	£20,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)

Warm Welcome Community Organising Pilot

As part of the **Warm Welcome Campaign**, last winter, **Civic Power Fund** and **Good Faith Partnership** joined forces to explore the potential for community organising within Warm Spaces.

Pooling funding from the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**, the **Trust for London**, and the **JRSST-CT**, we funded community organising pilots in five areas across the UK. These pilots focussed on Listening Campaigns led by local organising partners across key Warm Welcome Spaces. These partners sat down with guests and volunteers to understand their common concerns.

From the outset, we hypothesised that Warm Spaces could be incredibly fertile ground for building community power. The Warm Welcome Campaign data shows that more than 7,000 local organisations received a combined total of nearly 2.5 million visits, with more than 50% of guests saying that they would otherwise have been at home with the heating off.

Although last winter was set to be particularly acute, the vast need communities faced and continue to face is a culmination of decades-long political decision-making that has ignored them.

We saw enormous potential in Warm Spaces to become a powerful catalyst for both systemic change and renewed democratic engagement amongst left behind communities, but knew this would only be realised if their capacity to listen to their communities and organise together for change was nurtured and supported.

The Listening Campaign ran from April to July 2023. Listening partners included Citizens UK and the Centre for Theology & Community in London, the Good Faith Partnership in Bristol, Together Creating Communities/ Trefnu Cymunedol Cymru (TCC) in North East Wales, and Thrive Together in Birmingham.

We then evaluated the results of this pilot and found that:

- Community Building is a prerequisite to sustained Community Organising, because relationships are vital to building common ground.
- This is uniquely important for people living in poverty or deprivation, who so often face stigma and isolation.
- Warm Welcome Spaces offer fertile ground for Community Building because people come together as equals, sharing hospitality in dignity.
- The infrastructure around Warm Welcome Spaces is still nascent, but Community Organising requires structured support; with the right support and investment, we could see a clear pathway to turn this Community Building into Community Organising.

Following the pilot, we decided to go deeper in a handful of places - directly funding organisers to support the Warm Welcome Spaces. It is early in this second phase of the pilot, but already we are seeing some encouraging results:

- A collection of Warm Spaces came together to resist the eviction of local asylum seekers.
- A Warm Space set up a multi-faith food pantry in response to local community silos and the stigma experienced by those in need. They brought together local organisations to provide hospitality with dignity and vital support on energy savings.
- A collection of Warm Spaces ran an action on their council, who refused to replace a vital street light. Families came together to make their own paper lanterns and in response the council repaired the light.

Warm Welcome Grants

Organisation	Issues	Location	Summary	Grant Amount	Grant Duration
Act Build Change 2	Community Organising	UK-Wide	Act Build Change exists to make community organising accessible to all and build a network of leaders committed to justice.	£10,000.00	1 year (2022-2023)
Centre for Theology and Community 1	Fighting Poverty, Community Organising, Faith	London	The Centre for Theology & Community is based in east London and grew out of local churches in membership of Citizens UK. They work with churches in deprived and diverse areas to aid the transformation of their communities and of wider society.	£25,000.00	1 year (2022-2023)
Centre for Theology and Community 2	Fighting Poverty, Community Organising, Faith	London	The Centre for Theology & Community is based in east London and grew out of local churches in membership of Citizens UK. They work with churches in deprived and diverse areas to aid the transformation of their communities and of wider society.	£25,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Citizens UK 1	Community Organising	UK-Wide	Citizens UK is a people-powered community organising alliance working across the UK.	£10,000.00	1 year (2022-2023)
Citizens UK 2	Community Organising	UK-Wide	Citizens UK is a people-powered community organising alliance working across the UK.	£15,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)
Good Faith Foundation 1	Fighting Poverty, Faith	London, Bristol, South West	Good Faith Partnership connects across boundaries of politics, business, civil society, and faith, to tackle systematic issues. They are all about building relationships, so their work starts with a coffee and a chat.	£25,000.00	1 year (2022-2023)
Good Faith Foundation 2	Fighting Poverty, Faith	London, Bristol, South West	Good Faith Partnership connects across boundaries of politics, business, civil society, and faith, to tackle systematic issues. They are all about building relationships, so their work starts with a coffee and a chat.	£10,000.00	1 year (2023-2024)

Thrive Together Birmingham	Fighting Poverty, Faith	Birmingham, Midlands	Thrive Together Birmingham aims to support and grow the movement of individuals, churches and organisations who, motivated by their faith, are committed to addressing issues of poverty and to playing their part in helping their neighbourhoods to flourish.	£10,000.00	1 year (2022-2023)
Together Creating Communities	Community Organising, Fighting Poverty	North East Wales, Wales	Together Creating Communities is the primary organising alliance in North Wales. They tackle social injustice by supporting diverse communities to gain the power they need to enact change.	£10,000.00	1 year (2022-2023)

Goal 3: Raising our voice to better resource organising

By 2030, we aim to have shifted a greater proportion (minimum 12% of social justice grantmaking) of UK philanthropic resources towards community organising. This is reaching grassroots groups rooted in and accountable to diverse communities.

Why?

Currently only 0.3% of social justice grantmaking goes towards community organising. While it is vital that community groups have independent income streams, philanthropy offers a uniquely flexible source of capital that could and should be resourcing these groups.⁴

Organising is also a proven route to impact. Philanthropic funders have an outsized impact on the tactics social justice actors pursue and should be allocating resources to what works.

Our central thesis

Funding organising well requires shifting power and control to communities. This is a massive cultural shift for most existing sources of charitable giving.

An intermediary can both show what is possible and move resources at scale, in turn shifting funding practices for the long-haul.

Short-term, competitive and project-based funding is also inhibiting long-term people power. That is why we are making a collective case for more and better funding for this work.

So we...

- Make a collective, nationwide case for investment in grassroots community organising
- ‘Show by doing’, consistently sharing lessons and impact
- Work alongside our partners to strategically influence key philanthropic and social justice stakeholders to shift more and better resources into organising

Activities and Impact Funding

Justice 2

In partnership with **The Hour is Late**, the **Civic Power Fund** released *Funding Justice 2*. This was the second iteration of our flagship research mapping where UK social justice funding goes.

Researchers looked at £950 million worth of grants from the 2021/22 financial year, equivalent to c.21% of all UK foundation giving. This was up from c.8% of all UK foundation giving in *Funding Justice 1* (based on 2018/19 data).

Despite the soul searching prompted by the pandemic and the resurgence of Black Lives Matter in 2020, the research showed that little UK foundation giving went to tackling the root causes of injustice in 2021/22.

5.7% of all UK foundation giving went to work tackling the causes of injustice, and 0.3% went to building people power through organising.

For the second year in a row, the research also found that funding for social justice is not reaching local communities. Nearly two thirds of the funding was focussed on work carried out at the national level.

In *Funding Justice 2*, researchers included an extra level of analysis. They allocated each social justice grant across 6 theories of change. This used the well respected Ayni Institute movement ecology framework.⁵ The purpose of this was to give funders and social justice actors a strategic overview of social justice funding strategies and approaches.

⁴ Eliza Baring and Jon Cracknell, *Funding Justice 2*, October 2023.

⁵ Paul Engler, Sophie Lasoff and Carlos Saavedra, *Funding Social Movements: How mass protest makes an impact*, *Ayni Institute*, 2019.

This analysis revealed that over two thirds of social justice funding went either to service delivery work, or work in elite settings aimed at influencing decision-makers. Less than 10% went to communities organising and mobilising to win change that matters to them.

Funders and social justice actors welcomed this ecology approach. It has become a vital strategy tool - helping funders interrogate the breath of their investments and social justice actors better understand the funding landscape.

An early impact snapshot found that:

- Over 200 funders and social justice actors attended the launch
- The research has been downloaded over a hundred times
- The research was covered in [Alliance Magazine](#), [Civil Society](#), [Firetail Briefing](#), [Funders Collaborative Hub](#), [Stir to Action Magazine](#), [Third Sector Magazine](#), and [UK Fundraising](#)
- We are now working with over 20 funders to help change funding practice based on lessons from the report and our early grantmaking. At least 6 of these funders used the research to influence their Board of Trustees
- The research has spurred further funder collaboratives around justice and climate action

US Learning Exchange

In November 2023, in partnership with **Unbound Philanthropy**, **This Day Foundation**, and **Paul Hamlyn Foundation**, we led a learning exchange to New York. This included 14 UK-based community organising leaders and five key funders.

The aims of this trip were:

1. To deepen UK funder and organiser knowledge of successful organising infrastructure.
2. To give UK organisers from non-traditional communities the space to learn about US-based organising initiatives and consider what might aid them and their community.
3. To spark ideas around and investment in similar initiatives in the UK, rooted in these perspectives and shared experiences.
4. For forward thinking funders to connect with some of the best organising work happening in the UK and the US and for organisers to build connections and solidarity with each other.

The trip was a success. We know that almost £2 million in new money for community organising was secured following the Exchange. A further £1.3 million is in the pipeline.

The trip also sparked several key collaborations between organisers and funders, which are strengthening organising infrastructure and helping to shift resources to grassroots organising.

For example:

- Two organising leaders were invited to join a funder grantmaking committee. They will play a key role in shaping the future direction of this multi-million pot of money and in ensuring it reaches minoritised and marginalised communities.
- A major union is now also collaborating with two smaller community organising groups to embed lived experience-led organising within their training and development programme. This represents a significant shift in resources to both the grassroots and minoritised and marginalised communities.

Feedback from attendees also suggested that the exchange met its core aims:

“The exchanges with the other attendees were very interesting, and the whole trip provided an excellent environment to forge relationships. For a small organisation with no organisers with previous experience in the UK, being in a space with other more experienced organisers and funders was incredibly helpful and enriching.”

“Overall it was an excellent trip and I learnt a lot from it. Looking forward to practically implementing what I learnt from the various organisations and funders. Lastly, looking forward to having further conversations and most importantly joint working with attendees.”

We are now working with attendees to build shared strategies around boosting community organising infrastructure.

Partnership work

We are clear that success does not just mean the growth of the Civic Power Fund.

As captured in Goal 3, our aim is to shift resources at scale so that far more groups receive sustainable funding for community organising. To this end, we worked closely with other funders and partners to ensure our partners could access a wider pool of charitable resources.

We know that at least 8 of our partners received in total £400,000 additional funding, thanks to their amazing work and our efforts to connect them with like-minded funders.

We also worked to build wider strategic alliances, for example securing capital support for several partners and opening up training opportunities with partners like Aspen, NEON, and LUSH for the organisers we work with.

We hope to ramp up this work in 2024, directly supporting partners to raise both additional and independent income.

Our Approach to Learning and Impact

Learning and development are key to everything we do.

We have made a strategic commitment to “learn in public” and iterate our strategy around the lessons we gather. We regularly carry out snap project evaluations and share this learning online and with key partners.

We track impact in three core ways:

1. Working directly with our grantee partners to understand the impact of our funding. This is gathered through annual reporting, which tells us whether the money has helped them reach their goals and any wider lessons for them, the Civic Power Fund, and the sector. We also carry out end of grant calls with all our partners to build a deeper understanding of their experiences.
2. Working with Hidden Depths Research and community organisers, we developed a learning framework that helps us track whether civic power is being built and deployed in place. We are rolling this out over a three year period in Manchester and North Wales. This includes tracking key metrics such as health of the group; diversity and regularity of attendees at meetings and key events; access to and relationships with those in power; overall campaign success; and local and national alliances built.
3. In partnership with the Hour is Late, the Civic Power Fund [releases an annual map of where social justice funding goes](#). This tells us the proportion of social justice grantmaking that goes towards organising. We are tracking this over time.

We have learnt many lessons from community organisers, who are forensic about learning and impact. The best community organisers will carry out evaluations after each action to determine what went well and why, and to understand how they could improve both the action and the strategy. This ensures a real-time approach to learning and impact. Rather than presupposing hyper-specific outputs and outcomes, the strategy adapts in pursuit of a clear end goal. This is vital to building and shifting power, and achieving lasting change.

Structure, Governance and Management

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Governing Document

The Civic Power Fund is a charitable company limited by guarantee (13635441). It was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 21 September 2021. The Civic Power Fund was registered as a charity on 26 June 2023 (1203784). We are registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, but operate in all four nations.

Structure of the Organisation

The Civic Power Fund is governed by a Board of Trustees.

The members of the Board of the Civic Power Fund (CPF) are both the Trustees of CPF and (in company law) its Directors. The Board has overall responsibility for stewarding CPF and ensuring its activities are in the public benefit. To do so, the Board is responsible for working in partnership with the Executive Director and other members of the Strategic Leadership Team to deliver the following functions:

1. Strategic Direction and Performance
2. Financial and Grantmaking Oversight
3. Safeguarding
4. Risk Management and Regulatory Compliance
5. Board Management and Performance

Trustees share collective responsibility for all decisions made and actions taken with their authority.

Civic Power Fund is an intermediary grantmaking organisation. We fundraise from large trusts and foundations and regrant to smaller grassroots groups with an aim of growing the quality and quantity of funding for grassroots organising.

We are supported in our decision-making by participatory panels, made up of people with lived experience of disadvantage or expertise in community organising. However, final grantmaking decisions are approved by the Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees

The Board may have 5-9 members. Terms will be for three years, renewable twice. This means Board members can serve for a maximum of 9 years.

Members of the Board of Trustees

During the reporting period, five individuals served as Trustees.

- **Kirsty McNeill was our Chair.** Kirsty was Executive Director for Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns at Save the Children. Previously, she founded a consultancy to advise leading social purpose organisations, worked as a special adviser in Number 10, and led on policy and influencing in Europe for DATA. Kirsty has also been on the board of Make Poverty History and managed the Stop AIDS Campaign. Kirsty was appointed upon incorporation on 21st September 2021. **Kirsty resigned on 10th July 2024 to take up a new position that created a conflict of interest with this Board position.**
- **Nick Lowles is our Treasurer.** Nick is chief executive of HOPE not hate, the UK's largest anti-racism and anti-extremism movement. He was the former editor of anti-fascist magazine Searchlight. Nick was appointed upon incorporation on 21st September 2021. **Nick served as Interim Chair from 10th July 2024 to 16th July 2024.**

- **Catherine McDonald is a Trustee.** Catherine is Executive Director of Operations and Strategy at WWF-UK and also a trustee and Chair of the Audit Committee at a large hospice. Before that she spent several years in the NHS, supporting hospital trusts and healthcare systems that had operational, financial, quality and governance challenges. Earlier in her career she qualified as a chartered accountant and spent a few years as a management consultant. Catherine was appointed upon incorporation on 21st September 2021.
- **Nikki Williams is a Trustee.** Nikki is the Director for Campaigning and Communities for The Wildlife Trusts. Her specialisms cover campaigning to influence policy at national and local level, community empowerment, and youth-led organisational development. She passionately believes that communities being in control of their own spaces helps create a healthier, happier society for all. Her background as an artist means she brings creativity to support others in experiencing nature and how it improves the quality of our lives. Nikki was appointed on 21st March 2023.
- **Naimah Hassan is a Trustee.** Naimah co-founded the Global Media Campaign and Africa Women Rights Advocates. Both organisations centre women-led movements and sustainable change. She is an award winning campaigner, disruptor, and policy shifter. For the past 15 years, she has worked to support community-led initiatives, innovations, strategies, and education. Being the change she wants to see is part of her DNA. She is an international trainer and speaker on different stages, including TED (2019). Naimah was appointed on 21st March 2023.

Due to the small size of the Board, we do not currently have any standing subcommittees.

- **Dan Paskins was appointed as a Trustee and Chair of the Board on 17th July 2024.**

Selection and appointment of Trustees

Nominations and recommendations are first made from open recruitment. Their CVs are then circulated to the Board, which arranges for potential candidates to be interviewed for their suitability. A Nominations Committee then takes part in interviews alongside key staff members. Together, they recommend them to the Trustees. The Trustees will then vote to appoint a new Trustee. New Trustees are confirmed through special resolution.

Induction and training of Trustees

Newly appointed Trustees meet with the Chair, the Executive Director, and staff members as part of a documented and structured induction programme; and they receive key Civic Power Fund organisational and programmatic documents. They are asked to sign a Code of Conduct and standing register of interests.

Team

Civic Power Fund has 5 permanent staff on payroll. The majority of these staff members work part-time, meaning our Full Time Equivalent headcount is 3.6. We have a Senior Leadership Team of 2, Martha Mackenzie as Executive Director and Mohammed Afridi as Director of Organising.

- **Martha Mackenzie is our Executive Director.** She has a background in organising, campaigning, fundraising and charity leadership. She was previously Head of Global Humanitarian Advocacy at UNICEF in New York, and has led teams and campaigns at Shelter and Save the Children in the UK. Martha has balanced progressive fundraising and advocacy with campaigns rooted in redistributing power throughout her career. She has worked with renters to tackle revenge evictions, campaigned with parents on childcare costs, helped establish a youth activism charity and won multi-million dollar advocacy grants. She is a Trustee of Oxfam GB.
- **Mohammed Afridi is our Director of Organising.** He was the former National Coordinator of Rize Up, a voter registration campaign aimed at marginalised and BME youth. In 2016 he helped set up The World Transformed, the UK's largest festival of progressive politics and arts. He has also worked as a consultant for the UK Democracy Fund, Cook 19 and other third sector organisations and was the former head of operations at Momentum. After graduating

with a Master in Global Political Economy (University of Sussex), Mohammed held several senior positions in private sector firms, including Bloomberg LP.

- **Zain Hafeez is our Community Funding Manager.** Zain is a part-time Community Organiser with Citizens UK. He has previously served in campaigning, funding, and leadership roles with the Red Cross, Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, and Voices Network. He has a decade of first-hand experience of the asylum and immigration system, and he has campaigned for reform throughout. He looks forward to combining his organising skills with his understanding of the challenges grassroots groups striving for justice face. He is a spokesperson at Sounddelivery Media and an Advisor at the Justice Together Initiative.
- **Joy Matthew is our Grants and Operations Officer.** She has a background in law and has recently passed her LLP. She previously completed the 2027 placement scheme, which is designed to introduce lived experience individuals into the funding sector. Joy is now exploring the philanthropic space and has a particular interest in network, collaboration, and advocacy. She joined the Civic Power Fund from two years at the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, working on policy and grant management. She wants grassroots communities to be trusted by funders to lead their own transformation.
- **Alison Romaine is our Youth Organising Lead.** Alison has a background in student organising - across both unions and grassroots groups - with an interest in redistributing power through communities of care. In her spare time she is a volunteer member of Sheffield Community Land Trust, which aims to reclaim the right to affordable and secure housing for all through co-operative decision-making and community ownership, reconnecting us to the land. She also works part-time at Age UK Sheffield, fundraising and supporting arts-based event programming to tackle increasing social isolation in the city.

Salaries for key management are set by the Board of Trustees. These are determined based on internal pay scales, benchmarked against the charitable funding sector. Annual increases for all staff are approved by the Board of Trustees. These increases are determined by benchmarking, inflation, and affordability for the Fund.

We appointed a Finance Lead in July 2024, and prior to this worked closely with both our accountants and with charity financial advisers at Moore Kingston Smith to support the development of and implementation of robust financial management practices.

Our Approach to Grantmaking

Civic Power Fund takes a principled and pragmatic approach to grantmaking.

In order to realise the potential of organising for minoritised and marginalised communities, the Civic Power Fund must change the way organising is funded in the UK. A major barrier facing communities is the lack of accessible money to build power. This means communities marginalised because of their age, location, sexual orientation, gender, religion, class, and race are continually prevented from changing the systems and structures that hold them back.

Through learning and working with our grantee and funder partners, we aim to change this.

To enable this, the following principles govern our grantmaking:

- Trust is earned, but it is *our* job to earn it
- Organising is hard, being funded to do it shouldn't be
- They are the experts and we are their support
- Transparency is a two-way street
- Feedback is for action not for contemplation
- Our grantees are our partners
- Failure is fine, fibs are not
- Organising takes a long time, funding should be for a long time

And we prioritise organisations that are:

1. Rooted in and accountable to minoritised and marginalised communities
2. Hoping to achieve long-term change on issues affecting the lives of their community

3. Working towards this long-term change by building the capacity and power of their community
4. Lacking the resources to take their vision to the next level
5. Seeking to build a larger us and resisting the politics of division

In deciding who to grant to, staff, trustees, and on some occasions appointed experts such as community organisers, work together to identify potential grantees, in line with our charitable objects and aims.

We either work with identified partners to co-produce a funding application, or we run open grant-rounds to attract as wide a range of candidates as possible. This depends on the strategic purpose of the grant.

With all our partners, we aim to break down barriers to funding and share the application load with them. This involves co-producing Grant Memos that capture their work and their plans.

The Board of Trustees authorises grants during quarterly meetings.

Because we recognise the critical importance of trust and partnership between staff and grantees, and the time that grantees will have invested in developing the relationship by this point, the board is expected to authorise grants unless a clear case is made that an organisation does not fall within the Civic Power Fund's strategy or otherwise presents a serious strategic, reputational, or operational risk.

In addition to the core criteria above and ensuring alignment with our vision and values, we undertake detailed and holistic due diligence checks. The majority of this work is done by the Fund's staff in alignment with existing policies and, wherever possible, avoids unnecessary and burdensome form filling for grantees.

For the purpose of grantmaking, the fund remains 'politely sceptical' of applicants, ensuring that processes outlined in our financial controls and anti-fraud policies are followed, even when the grant recipient is trusted or we've worked with them previously. We also prioritise site visits and regular phone calls to build a relationship with our partners and ensure that we understand the work and are offering them adequate support.

Core to our charitable aims is ensuring funding for community organising reaches minoritised and marginalised communities. This means that some of the groups we work with are likely to be small, local groups who are not registered as a charity. Where this is the case, we are guided by the Charity Commission guidance on grant funding to non-charities. Robust checks and monitoring are carried out to ensure that the work is in line with our charitable purpose, for public benefit, and with a strictly non-partisan and non-political purpose.

All of this is set out in more detail in our 'Approach to Grantmaking' which we are happy to share on request.

Risk Review

The Board of Trustees maintains an active risk register which is reviewed at Board Meetings. We have also begun working with Moore Kingston Smith to audit and evaluate our approach to risk and ensure we are taking a holistic view informed by internal and external challenges. As part of this, we have produced an updated risk statement. This allows us to apply different risk categories to different risk areas - noting that in some instances it serves our objects to take a higher degree of risk. We have been informed by the Information Commissioner's Office categorisation and share our current risk statement below.

<p>Hungry <i>Eager to be innovative and to choose options that suspend previously held assumptions and accept greater uncertainty</i></p>	<p>Grantmaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where we are confident work is rooted in the Mission, Vision and Values of the Civic Power Fund, we will fund bold, innovative and often overlooked groups that other funders deem as too risky to resource (e.g. non-charities, campaign groups, small groups). This means having a deep, personal relationship with these groups so we understand the nature of their work. • This is vital to achieve our objects, which centre disadvantaged communities. These communities are often excluded from formal structures so we intentionally look beyond them. • Where we have a high degree of trust in the groups and organisations we support, we will apply minimal funding barriers. This means moving money quickly with maximum flexibility. It also means providing vital wellbeing and strategy micro grants to support their work in real time. • To enable this, we thoroughly document all our decision-making. As we talk about in more detail below, we also have a hands-on approach to due diligence. We get to know our partners thoroughly and we provide partners with legal and compliance support through our Governance Hub. • Where we have flexibility in our income, we will sign multi-year grant agreements with our partners, holding funds on our books so we can resource the work in the way we know achieves maximum impact. By doing this, we will challenge others to take the same approach and break the cycle of short-termism in funding. • We will deliberately and publicly test and challenge boundaries with this work, making a case that campaigning and organising towards social justice is charitable. We will consistently show our workings to make this possible. <p>Speaking our mind. Where it is key to the performance of our grants and the success of our partners, we will speak up to support their work and make a case for funding community organising.</p>
<p>Open <i>Willing to consider all options and choose one that is most likely to result in successful delivery</i></p>	<p>Recruitment. We want the Civic Power Fund to centre organising in our recruitment. It should be staffed and run by people who get grassroots organising and movement building. As a result, we will prioritise potential and commitment over specific grantmaking and funding skills (except for our Finance Lead role and other areas where the overall performance of the Fund requires specific expertise).</p> <p>Fundraising. We will explore a wide range of funders. Although we will do robust funder due diligence, where the funding modality is aligned with our values (e.g. unrestricted), we will err towards taking the money and putting it towards the service of the movement, even if the source of funds is less aligned. We are transparent about this, so our grantee partners always know where the money is coming from.</p>

	<p>Due Diligence. We have robust, hands-on due diligence processes, but we also ensure these are designed to support potential grantee partners to perform to the best of their ability, not penalise them on the basis of knowledge or policy gaps. For example, if an organisation is lacking something key to their governance, we will work with the Hub to get this in place in a way that works for them. We have a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and make that clear in our grant agreements. We use hands-on relationships with our partners to monitor this.</p>
<p>Cautious <i>Preference for safe options that have a low degree of residual risk</i></p>	<p>Financial Planning. We do not grant money we do not have. We will occasionally spend money on core costs on the basis of presumed income when there is a clear business case that the expense will boost sustainability. This means keeping the staff team small and only making grant commitments we can stand up. This is vital to our sustainability.</p> <p>Legal. We will seek robust legal and compliance advice whenever we are unsure. However, we will err towards likeminded experts who understand our Vision, Mission and Values and our deliberate intention to challenge assumptions about charitable work.</p> <p>Compliance. We will ensure full compliance across our finance, governance and HR systems against the standards we are held to. But we will also prioritise agility, ensuring our small team remains focused on our grantee partners and on bringing in external resources into the organisation.</p>
<p>Minimalist <i>Preference for safe options that have a low degree of inherent risk</i></p>	<p>Staff Wellbeing. We want to ensure a safe environment and will take minimal risks in this pursuit.</p> <p>Recordkeeping and Compliance. We will not take conscious risks in our financial, HR and governance record taking. For example, we will thoroughly document trustee decision-making where a hungry risk appetite is applied, and our bookkeeping and accounting will be thorough, robust, compliant and subject to external scrutiny.</p> <p>Behaviour. Relationships are our number one assets. We will not tolerate poor behaviour and we will hold ourselves to the highest standards in both our internal and external conduct.</p>
<p>Averse <i>Avoidance of risk and uncertainty</i></p>	<p>Safeguarding. We will take minimal risks when it comes to the safeguarding of our people and the people we support. We prioritise protecting the people we serve above ourselves. This means taking safeguarding approaches that centre survivors. This in turn means creating a culture of mutual accountability and collective care - and zero-tolerance for breaches of this.</p>

Additionally, some of the specific risks to our work that we are monitoring include:

1. **Limited bandwidth for grassroots organising.** Communities facing the harshest injustices are nurturing their people and patching up service gaps. But several factors are preventing them from building the lasting base of people power that can hold decision-makers to account and win lasting change:
 - a. **Lack of community bandwidth.** As the cost of living crisis intensifies, community groups are providing vital support to those who are struggling. This leaves them little time or money to focus on the systemic drivers of this crisis. Many communities simply do not have the capacity or practical support to develop leaders, build alliances, and take sustained political action. They need long-term resources and support.
 - b. **Lack of quality funding for grassroots community organising.** The lack of available funding for grassroots organising is compounding these constraints. This includes

both the amount of funding available (just 0.3% of funding from UK grantmakers in 2021/2022) but also the long-term, trust-based, unrestricted money we know is vital to the long-term success of community organising.

- c. **Short-term and competitive funding approaches.** Where funding does exist, it is short-term, small, and often project focused. This is forcing organisations to shift strategy depending on what funding is available. The sheer scarcity of resources for this work is also creating competition between groups when collaboration is key to impact.
 2. **Sustainability.** Sustainability is a challenge for both the work and the Fund. We have had two strong years, which means we are now running a major operation but still on a year to year basis. This creates two key challenges:
 - a. First, bringing in the money that can keep this operation going. We are fortunate to work with passionate and committed funders who want to shift more resources to the work. But much of our own funding remains short-term or hypothecated. This limits our capacity to make the long-term investments this work needs.
 - b. Second, starting to reduce the intensity of the work, so it is sustainable for the team and the organisation. We have been sprinting for two years and need to slow down as we grow to ensure a culture of care. There is an obvious conflict between these needs.
 3. **Carrying the operational load while continuing to look forward.** Our aspiration is to consolidate and innovate, but consolidation takes a lot of time and uses a different part of our brains. How we both reinforce our growing operational and compliance load *and* continue to innovate for growth is a key consideration. Alongside this, we want to maintain strong and robust relationships with our partners. As outlined above, these 1-2-1 relationships are key to making each investment go so much further. Making time for this with a small staff team is a key challenge.
 4. **Perceived risk and shrinking civil society space.** Many of the groups we work with are operating within a constrained civic environment. They are taking strategic and thoughtful risks in order to build power and win change. But they face hostile politics and policies, and often limiting interpretations of charity law. We stand by these groups as they stand up for their communities. And we have robust systems in place to ensure the charitability of our grants *and* the independence and challenging nature of the organisations we fund.
-

Finance Review

The financial results for the accounting period ended 31 December 2023 are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities. Please note the change in accountancy period, which we shifted to calendar year to better reflect our spending. This means we have a 15 month set of financial accounts. It also means we are reporting income received at the end of the accounting period, which is designated wholly to 2024.

The Civic Power Fund has grown significantly since our micro accounts filed in 2022. This is a reflection of our change in status - moving from a start-up company limited by guarantee to a stable charity. We have started to make a clear and compelling case for funding grassroots organising and shown we can reach and support this work effectively. We expect our income to gradually increase and stabilise, rather than continue growing at the same rate.

From 01 October 2022 to 31 December 2023 we raised £1.609 million - predominantly from trusts and foundations - and we spent £1.114 million.

We do not raise funds from the public.

The full income is set out on the Statement of Financial Activities and disclosures and descriptions are included below.

Our overall restricted income is £1.16 million. Our overall unrestricted income is £448,142. We should note that the vast majority of our restricted income is extremely flexible - it is restricted to a specific project, but beyond that spending is at our discretion. We are grateful to our funders who understand the vital importance of this type of income.

The majority of our spending went towards grantmaking: £686,276 or 61%. We spent approximately £233,000 on core running and operating costs (21%) and £195,000 on specific projects, excluding grantmaking (18%), including The Governance Hub, the Funding Justice research, the US Learning Exchange, and the Grassroots Organising conference. Disclosures and descriptions are included below and these projects are covered in detail throughout the report. As we grow and stabilise, we plan to increase the proportion of our spending on grantmaking.

Designated reserves and unrestricted general funds

Our designated general reserves are £121,757. We receive grant income for work that spans multiple accounting periods. Per charity SORP rules, this income is accounted for when we receive it, but the grant period lasts longer than the accountancy period. These reserves are designated towards grantmaking and core costs (within our overheads target of 10-17%). Our specific designated grantmaking reserves are £45,000. This includes multi-year payments due to Nurses United and We Belong and a one off payment to RECLAIM.

We hold designated reserves, so that we can allocate unrestricted income to multi-year grants - knowing this is the type of long-term support our partners need, whilst also being committed to only awarding grant income we already have.

Our free reserves are £96,585. This is in line with our reserves target.

Our restricted reserves are £232,060. Again, per charity SORP this income is accounted for when we receive it but the grant period lasts longer than the accountancy period. Full disclosures and descriptions are included below and with the Financial Statements.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is designed to protect the organisation against areas mentioned in our risk review along with unexpected falls in income, unplanned increases in expenditure, security risks and unexpected fluctuations in exchange rates.

Our policy results in a target of £70-£120,000 in free reserves.

Overall, our income and projected income puts us in a strong financial position. We are a clear going concern and looking forward to stabilising our incoming and outgoing resources as we transition from a small start-up to a more established fund.

Disclosures and descriptions

Alliance for Youth Organising. This is a new intergenerational collective who will make strategic funding decisions to support youth organising infrastructure. The initial investment from Blagrove Trust, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Paul Hamlyn Foundation is for 2024-2026, but our collective aim is to seed a long-term initiative that will help transform the sector.

Community Action Fund. Specific income restricted to a) our Community Action Fund - the Civic Power Fund's first open and democratic participatory fund for grassroots organising - and b) our first five Infrastructure grants. The bulk of this funding came from the closure of Campaign Bootcamp. It was stewarded by the Barrow Cadbury Trust before the Civic Power Fund became a registered charity. The money went towards five key infrastructure partners and 18 grassroots partners (all listed in the report) as well as the running costs of the programme (17% of the Campaign Bootcamp resources). Income remaining in these accounts is designated to the final multi-year grant payments in 2024.

Core Costs. Specific income restricted to our core costs from Unbound Philanthropy and John Ellerman Foundation. These funders do not permit regranteeing, but want to invest in the running and operational costs of the Civic Power Fund as they support the underlying mission.

General Charitable. The Civic Power Fund received several grants before we were a registered charity. The terms of these grants specify that the funding is unrestricted, but must be held separately within our accounts to ensure charitable spending. Of course, all our spending is charitable. However, we wanted to honour the grant terms in this 15 month set of accounts. In future accounts, this will not be necessary. Income remaining in these accounts is designated to our grantmaking and core costs (10% of the total grant amounts) in 2024.

Grassroots Organising. Funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for a project to explore and map funding for grassroots organising in the UK. Income remaining in these accounts is designated to grantee support and wellbeing.

Funding Justice. Specific income towards the Civic Power Fund's annual research mapping where UK social justice funding goes. A small number of key costs carried across to 2024.

Manchester. Income from the Oglesby Charitable Trust restricted to our work in Manchester. This includes grantmaking and core costs (10% of total grant amount).

The Hub. Specific income for the Civic Power Fund's Governance Hub. The funding forms part of the multi-year budget to support this vital work. It primarily goes towards consultancy support from the Hub's primary legal advisor.

US Learning Exchange. Specific income towards the Civic Power Fund's US Learning Exchange in November 2023. A small number of key costs carried across to 2024.

Warm Welcome Campaign. Income from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Trust for London, and JRSST-CT towards a community organising pilot in Warm Welcome spaces. The project spans 2023 and 2024 and funding is primarily being regranteeed towards partners and their core costs.

Looking Ahead

Insights from the work

1. **The stakes could not be higher.** We are living through a moment of profound crisis. For the first time in 25 years, global poverty rates have increased. Across the world, societies are more fractured than ever and democracy is in trouble. These are global trends, but they are ricocheting through our communities at home. Our people are hurting and money is scarce.
2. **People power is our urgent response.** The only way we rise to the scale of this challenge is through community organising. Organising builds the power of communities marginalised because of who they are or where they are from. Through organising, these communities build countervailing power - that which influences decision-makers and holds formal power to account. To build this power, organising binds communities together in solidarity. It transforms individual agency and it builds the foundations for a more just society. Social change cannot rely on organising alone. But given the transformational nature of people power, it is concerning that so little social justice grantmaking is going towards this work.
3. **Funding that builds people power requires a significant strategic shift.** The end goal of community organising is to build power, rather than to serve predetermined objectives. This is a significant shift for most funders. It requires a fundamental rethink of time, risk, and impact.
 - a. Time, because this is long-term, messy, non-linear work.
 - b. Risk, because doing this well means ceding control to communities. Our current compliance and governance landscape makes this feel scary. But the big picture risks of *not* transforming society are far scarier.
 - c. Impact, because success is not captured through policy outcomes and measurable metrics alone. Although it is possible to get forensic about people power! This is a practice that organisers have thought honed across generations. Rather than imposing their own metrics downwards, funders have to start from a place of understanding the craft of organising.
4. **But, we stand at the edge of a moment of great opportunity - if we can work together.** While this feels scary, we are optimistic. Our funders are serious about redistributing power. And we have seen first-hand the incredible grassroots work taking place across the country. If we significantly shift resources over the long-term and provide strategic, wrap-around support, we have the potential to win big. But we can't do this alone. The scale of the shift required cannot be met by one funder or one group. We must collectively invest capital in people power and stay the course.

Insights from our grantmaking

1. **You find the work by funding it.** We learnt that an open application process, which prioritised transparency and simplicity, was key to finding the grassroots work that is rooted in communities - work typically excluded from traditional grantmaking, and with the potential to win transformative change. This work is so grounded, the only way to find it is to put specialist, accessible money on the table. It has to be worth groups' time to engage.
2. **An open and accessible process matters more to grassroots groups than low ratios.** Ratios tell us that funding is too scarce. It is vital that we keep addressing this. For example, our Community Action Fund was able to support 18 groups out of 90 shortlisted and 900 first stage applicants. If we map the shortlisted funding request to the full 900 potentially in scope applications, we estimate a total funding need of around £13 million. While we are **so happy** that money is getting into the hands of 18 incredible groups, surfacing such significant unmet needs is deeply frustrating.

However, we saw that by making the initial process very accessible (just four short questions, answered by video, voice note or text), and the second process a partnership with the staff team (1-2-1 support to develop a Grant Memo and tackle any due diligence challenges ahead of time), we could give as many candidates as possible a positive experience.

High ratios from open processes reveal the funding gaps we need to work together to address. And if an open process is designed around their needs, it can also lead to a positive and accessible learning experience for grassroots groups.

3. **Being a specialist matters.** We saw how important it was to be a specialist funder for organising. We are staffed by organisers and a panel of community organisers made final funding decisions. This knowledge and precision mattered in finding the right groups to fund
 - those who can have strategic impact across the UK *and* change the lives of their community.

It also made the process much better for applicants. There was a shared understanding of what community organisers face and need. Finally, we are creating an organic community of practice across our partners. They trust us and each other as people who understand organising and as a result are working together to maximise their impact.

4. **Doing this well takes a lot of time and resources.** Thanks to a range of external partners, we learnt a huge amount about how to streamline this work. However, running a democratic and participatory process takes both time and money. Finding the right balance between the power of this open and participatory process, and ensuring that money gets out the door in a timely manner is key. At the same time, there is no substitute for the 1-2-1 relationships we have with our grantee partners. These add so much value on top of the financial resource.
5. **Place-based impact is vital, but very hard to achieve.** The best organising starts in place. This is where the relationships that breed community power are forged. As a result, we're utterly committed to our place-based work alongside our national infrastructure work. However, it takes a long time to build up credibility in a place.

Getting the right balance between early impact, while recognising that it can take 1-2 years to get credibility set up in a place, has been a consistent challenge. We have pared back our place-based work to stay focussed on solely Manchester and North Wales (alongside our UK-wide investments) in 2024. We have also worked to find solid and trusted infrastructure partners in each area who can anchor strategies.

What next for the Civic Power Fund?

2022 was 'Credential and Connect'. A year of building and demonstrating our organising expertise and building wide and deep relationships vital to the work.

2023 was 'Find and Fund'. We demonstrated that the work is happening and showed we can move money successfully at scale.

2024 is 'Consolidate and Innovate'. We want to deepen our relationship with our existing partners, maximising their impact and our shared learning. We also want to build on our lessons from the first two years and secure our own infrastructure and operations.

This means that beyond our North Wales and Alliance for Youth Organising grantmaking, we don't expect to bring on many new partners in 2024. However, we will continue to work with organisers to innovate around what they need, including building on lessons from our US Learning Exchange and the many migrant rights organisations we work with.

And we will reinforce our existing partners. At the end of 2024 we hope to have a robust and sustainable organisation that can step back and focus again on growth.

Below is a snapshot of our operational plan, designed to achieve this aim and continue working towards our 3 core goals.

<p>Building Organising Infrastructure</p>	<p>Building Civic Power in Place</p>	<p>Raising our voice to better resource organising</p>
<p>Confirmed Detailed learning from the Community Action Fund; continuing to fund the strongest partners.</p> <p>Building our new Alliance for Youth Organising and recruiting a new Youth Organising Lead. Awarding the first Youth Organising Infrastructure grants.</p> <p>Renewing key Community Action Fund grants that can turn grassroots action into infrastructure.</p> <p>In progress A long-term initiative to build the political power of the groups we support led by refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and diaspora communities across the UK.</p>	<p>Confirmed Recruiting our Manchester Organising Adviser and rolling out our multi-year learning framework with our grantee partners in Manchester.</p> <p>Working with Together Creating Communities to make our first awards in North Wales.</p> <p>Working with Good Faith Partnership to deepen organising action in North Wales and London as part of Warm Welcome Organising.</p> <p>In progress Exploring new place-based partnerships from 2025 onwards.</p>	<p>Confirmed Funding Justice 3, deepening our understanding of where social justice funding is going and looking in detail at different sectors.</p> <p>A new podcast series with UCL Policy Lab and Amanda Tattersall to tell a story of UK organising and ordinary hope.</p> <p>An event series on racial justice, supporting BAME groups building power and organising around the election.</p> <p>In progress Exploration of organising funding for climate action, including a new learning journey for funders.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Supporting our Grantee Partners</p>		
<p>Confirmed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthening the Governance Hub and deepening support available to our partners, especially around the election ● A new leadership development programme for migrant-led groups we work with ● Strategy and wellbeing grants for all grantee partners ● More active support and cohort building around our grantee partners <p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A new programme to support innovations from the US Learning Exchange ● New partnerships to deepen legal support for grassroots organising groups ● More support to our grantee partners to aid income generation and sustainability ● Collaboration and cohort building around our land and housing partners 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Strengthening the Civic Power Fund</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Securing funding renewals from key one year funders and bring on new multi-year partners ● Working with Act Build Change to build a culture of care across the Civic Power Fund as we grow ● A new website and a new CRM system that supports our grantee-first application process ● Updated HR, Governance, and Financial policies and processes following recommendations from Moore Kingston Smith ● Recruiting a new Board Chair and a fundraising Trustee 		

Administrative Details

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Company Number: 13635441

Charity Number: 1203784

Registered Office and Operational Address: 5-7 Tanner Street, London, SE1 3LE

Trustees:

- Kirsty McNeill, Chair, appointed 21 September 2021, resigned 10 July 2024
- Nick Lowles, Treasurer, appointed 21 September 2021
- Catherine McDonald, appointed 21 September 2021
- Naimah Hassan, appointed 21 March 2023
- Nikki Williams, appointed 21 March 2023

Principle Staff:

- Martha Mackenzie, Executive Director, appointed 10 January 2022
- Mohammed Afridi, Director of Organising, appointed 01 September 2022

Bankers:

ANNA

Unity Trust Bank

Auditors:

DSC Accountants and Auditors, Tattersall House, E Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5LT

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees (who are also directors of Civic Power Fund for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and enable them 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 detection and prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees of the company who held office at the date of the approval of the Financial Statements as set out above confirm, so far as they are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and

- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Auditors

For the year ended 31 December 2023

DSC Accountants and Auditors was appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year.

We would like to thank everyone, and all organisations, who support our work – donors, staff and Trustees.

Our work would not be possible without you.

This report and the financial statements were approved by the Board on 16th July 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

Nick Lowles

Nick Lowles, Interim Chair and Treasurer

Date: 9/9/2024

Independent Auditors Report

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Civic Power Fund (the 'charitable company') for the period ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

An overview of the scope of our audit

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent

with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be

materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

As this is the first year the charity has breached the audit threshold, the comparison figures are unaudited.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

- In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:
- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the industry in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We focused on laws and regulations which could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006 and UK tax legislation. Our tests included agreeing the

financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, a review of correspondence with the Charity Commission, enquiries with management and the inspection of other regulatory and legal correspondence.

We addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and estimates and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and the completeness of income recognition by testing to supporting documentation and correspondence. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Graham French

Graham French (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of DSC Accountants Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Tattersall House
East Parade
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 5LT

Date: 17th July 2024

Financial Statements
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

				PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 Total funds £	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	Notes 2	Unrestricted funds £ <u>448,142</u>	Restricted funds £ <u>1,160,481</u>	<u>1,608,623</u>	<u>95,580</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	3				
Finance and governance		-	13,009	13,009	2,595
Grants to institutions		75,000	611,276	686,276	-
Charitable spending		70,199	298,558	368,757	92,587
Raising funds		<u>-</u>	<u>45,577</u>	<u>45,577</u>	<u>-</u>
Total		<u>145,199</u>	<u>968,420</u>	<u>1,113,619</u>	<u>95,182</u>
NET INCOME		302,943	192,061	495,004	398
Transfers between funds	13	<u>(40,000)</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		262,943	232,061	495,004	398
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		398	-	398	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>263,341</u>	<u>232,061</u>	<u>495,402</u>	<u>398</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

CIVIC POWER FUND**BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11	1,659	-	1,659	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Prepayments and accrued income		-	30,000	30,000	-
Cash at bank		<u>563,884</u>	<u>557,442</u>	<u>1,121,326</u>	<u>135,559</u>
		563,884	587,442	1,151,326	135,559
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(302,201)	(355,382)	(657,583)	(135,161)
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>261,683</u>	<u>232,060</u>	<u>493,743</u>	<u>398</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>263,342</u>	<u>232,060</u>	<u>495,402</u>	<u>398</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>263,342</u>	<u>232,060</u>	<u>495,402</u>	<u>398</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	13			263,342	398
Restricted funds				<u>232,060</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>495,402</u>	<u>398</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 16th July 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Nick Lowles

.....
N Lowles - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

CIVIC POWER FUND**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

		PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22 £
	Notes		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	987,958	135,559
Tax paid		<u>(93)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>987,865</u>	<u>135,559</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(2,098)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>(2,098)</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>135,559</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>1,121,326</u>	<u>135,559</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

CIVIC POWER FUND

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	495,004	398
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	439	-
Increase in debtors	(30,000)	-
Increase in creditors	<u>522,515</u>	<u>135,161</u>
Net cash provided by operations	<u><u>987,958</u></u>	<u><u>135,559</u></u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.10.22 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>135,559</u>	<u>985,767</u>	<u>1,121,326</u>
	<u>135,559</u>	<u>985,767</u>	<u>1,121,326</u>
Total	<u><u>135,559</u></u>	<u><u>985,767</u></u>	<u><u>1,121,326</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

CIVIC POWER FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

Civic Power Fund is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on page 39 of the trustee report.

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Any estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

In the reporting period there has been no critical accounting judgements or estimations made by the directors. Assets and liabilities have been valued using calculations or original cost.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	25% Straight line
Computer equipment	25% Straight line

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

CIVIC POWER FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors

Grant monies awarded to institutions in advance of the grant funding agreements are shown in debtors under prepayments and accrued income.

Deferred Income

Grant funding that has been received in the period, which is due to be spent in a future accounting period has been deferred in accordance with the grant funding agreements.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22 £
Grants	<u>1,608,623</u>	<u>95,580</u>

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 4) £	Grant funding of activities (see note 5) £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Finance and governance	-	-	13,009	13,009
Grants to institutions	-	686,276	-	686,276
Charitable spending	231,461	-	137,296	368,757
Raising funds	<u>45,577</u>	-	-	<u>45,577</u>
	<u>277,038</u>	<u>686,276</u>	<u>150,305</u>	<u>1,113,619</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR
THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

4. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22 £
Staff costs	207,655	52,785
Consultancy	53,637	31,548
Stipends and general expenses	15,307	-
Depreciation	<u>439</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>277,038</u>	<u>84,333</u>

5. GRANTS PAYABLE

	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22 £
Grants to institutions	<u>686,276</u>	<u>-</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR
THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

5. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued

The total grants paid to institutions during the period was as follows:

	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22 £
Act Build Change Ltd	70,600	-
All The Small Things CIC	20,000	-
Brighton and Hove Community Land Trust	20,000	-
Centre for Progressive Change	20,000	-
Centre for Theology and Community	25,842	-
Citizens UK	10,000	-
Coffee Afrik CIC	20,000	-
Collaborative Women	18,500	-
Common Good Foundation	20,000	-
Common Knowledge	16,875	-
E16 Community Land Trust	18,500	-
Greater Manchester Poverty Action	20,000	-
Greater Manchester Tenants Union	20,000	-
Good Faith Foundation	25,000	-
Housing Action Teesside	20,000	-
Southeast and East Asian Women's Association	18,500	-
Love and Power	50,000	-
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit	10,000	-
Nanny Solidarity Network CIC	20,000	-
Nurses United	30,000	-
Parents for Future Scotland	15,000	-
Growing Rights Instead of Poverty Partnership	20,500	-
Saathi House	17,000	-
South Norwood Community Kitchen	16,500	-
The Social Change Agency	22,084	-
The Rights Collective	20,000	-
Thrive Together Birmingham	10,000	-
Together Creating Communities	10,000	-
Triangular CIO	20,000	-
UK Youth Climate Coalition	12,000	-
Wards Corner Community Benefit Society	10,000	-
Workers Co-op	20,000	-
We Belong	10,000	-
Miscellaneous	<u>9,375</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>686,276</u>	<u>-</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance £	Human resources £	Other £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Finance and governance	235	-	-	12,774	13,009
Charitable spending	<u>-</u>	<u>68,402</u>	<u>68,894</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137,296</u>
	<u>235</u>	<u>68,402</u>	<u>68,894</u>	<u>12,774</u>	<u>150,305</u>

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22 £
Auditors' remuneration	9,000	-
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	3,774	2,256
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>439</u>	<u>-</u>

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31 December 2023.

Trustees' expenses

Trustee expenses totalled £534 for 1 trustee for travel and subsistence for the period ended 31 December 2023.

9. STAFF COSTS

	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23 £	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22 £
Wages and salaries	188,409	50,250
Social security costs	15,747	2,220
Other pension costs	<u>3,499</u>	<u>315</u>
	<u>207,655</u>	<u>52,785</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the period was as follows:

	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22
Support staff	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR
THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023****9. STAFF COSTS - continued**

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	PERIOD 1.10.22 TO 31.12.23	PERIOD 21.9.21 TO 30.9.22
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>2</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

The key management personnel of the charity comprise all staff.

10. REPORTING PERIOD AND COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

The financial statements cover a period of 15 months. The change in year-end was made in order to bring the end of the reporting period in line with internal reporting for consistency. This means that comparative amounts presented in the financial statements (including the related notes) are not entirely comparable. Permission was obtained from Companies House to make this change.

The comparatives show the results prior to the entity gaining charitable status. All funds held were deemed as unrestricted.

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
Additions	<u>456</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>2,098</u>
DEPRECIATION			
Charge for year	<u>123</u>	<u>316</u>	<u>439</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2023	<u><u>333</u></u>	<u><u>1,326</u></u>	<u><u>1,659</u></u>
At 30 September 2022	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR
THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023****12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2023 £	2022 £
Tax	-	93
Other creditors	606	477
Accruals and deferred income	<u>656,977</u>	<u>134,591</u>
	<u>657,583</u>	<u>135,161</u>
	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	16,976	2,106
Deferred income due within one year	<u>640,000</u>	<u>132,485</u>
Total	<u>656,976</u>	<u>134,591</u>

Deferred income comprises grant income that was received in the year but the terms of the grant agreement state that the funds are to be spent during a period commencing after the balance sheet date.

	£
Deferred income balance as at 1 October 2022	132,485
Amount released to grant income in the year	(132,485)
Amount deferred in year	<u>640,000</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2023	<u>640,000</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	398	141,187	(45,000)	96,585
Designated - Grantmaking	-	-	45,000	45,000
Designated - General Charitable	<u>-</u>	<u>161,757</u>	<u>(40,000)</u>	<u>121,757</u>
	398	302,944	(40,000)	263,342
Restricted funds				
The Hub	-	14,515	-	14,515
Community Action Fund	-	75,389	40,000	115,389
Core Costs	-	2,519	-	2,519
Grassroots Organising	-	21,186	-	21,186
Warm Welcome	-	6,344	-	6,344
Manchester Fund	-	4,000	-	4,000
Alliance for Youth Organising	-	57,908	-	57,908
Funding Justice	-	6,508	-	6,508
US Learning Exchange	<u>-</u>	<u>3,691</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,691</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>192,060</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>232,060</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>398</u>	<u>495,004</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>495,402</u>

CIVIC POWER FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR
THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023****13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General	231,456	(90,269)	141,187
Designated - General Charitable	<u>216,686</u>	<u>(54,929)</u>	<u>161,757</u>
	448,142	(145,198)	302,944
Restricted funds			
The Hub	23,500	(8,985)	14,515
Community Action Fund	623,615	(548,226)	75,389
Core Costs	166,668	(164,149)	2,519
Grassroots Organising	33,357	(12,171)	21,186
Warm Welcome	107,500	(101,156)	6,344
Manchester Fund	34,000	(30,000)	4,000
Alliance for Youth Organising	60,000	(2,092)	57,908
Funding Justice	53,342	(46,834)	6,508
US Learning Exchange	<u>58,499</u>	<u>(54,808)</u>	<u>3,691</u>
	<u>1,160,481</u>	<u>(968,421)</u>	<u>192,060</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,608,623</u>	<u>(1,113,619)</u>	<u>495,004</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.22 £
Unrestricted funds		
General	<u>398</u>	<u>398</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>398</u>	<u>398</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General	95,580	(95,182)	398
	—————	—————	—————
TOTAL FUNDS	95,580	(95,182)	398

CIVIC POWER FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued Unrestricted Funds

Designated Funds

Grantmaking - Trustees have designated £45,000 from our free reserves towards grantmaking in 2024. This includes multi-year payments due to Nurses United and We Belong and a one off payment to reclaim.

General Charitable - The Fund received several grants before it became a registered charity. The terms of these grants specify that the funding is unrestricted, but must be held separately within our accounts to ensure charitable spending. Of course, all our spending is charitable. However, we wanted to honour the grant terms in this 15 month set of accounts. In future accounts, this will not be necessary. Income remaining in these accounts is designated to our grantmaking and core costs (10% of the total grant amounts) in 2024.

Restricted Funds

Community Action Fund - Specific income restricted to a) our Community Action Fund and b) our first five infrastructure grants made in Q4 2022. The bulk of this funding came from the closure of Campaign Bootcamp. It was stewarded by the Barrow Cadbury Trust before the Civic Power Fund became a registered charity. The money went towards five key infrastructure partners and 18 grassroots partners (all listed in the report) as well as the running costs of the programme (17% of the Campaign Bootcamp resources). Income remaining in these accounts is restricted to the final multi-year grant payments in 2024.

Core Costs - Specific income restricted to our core costs from Unbound Philanthropy and John Ellerman Foundation. These funders do not permit regranting, but want to invest in the running and operational costs of the Civic Power Fund as they support the underlying mission.

Grassroots Organising - Funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for a project to explore and map funding for grassroots organising in the UK. Income remaining in these accounts is restricted to grantee support and wellbeing.

Funding Justice - Specific income towards the Civic Power Fund's annual research mapping where UK social justice funding goes. A small number of key costs carried across to 2024.

Manchester - Income from the Oglesby Charitable Trust restricted to our work in Manchester. This includes grantmaking and core costs (10% of total grant amount).

The Hub - Specific income for the Civic Power Fund's Governance Hub. The funding forms part of the multi-year budget to support this vital work. It primarily goes towards consultancy support from the Hub's primary legal advisor.

Alliance for Youth Organising - A new intergenerational collective that aims to make strategic funding decisions to support youth organising infrastructure. The initial investment from the Blagrove Trust, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Paul Hamlyn Foundation is for 2024-2026, but the collective aim is to seed a long-term initiative that will help transform the sector.

US Learning Exchange - Specific income towards the Civic Power Fund's US Learning Exchange in November 2023. A small number of key costs carried across to 2024.

Warm Welcome Campaign - Income from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Trust for London, and JRSST-CT towards a community organising pilot in Warm Welcome spaces. The project spans 2023 and 2024 and funding is primarily being regranting towards partners and their core costs.

CIVIC POWER FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR
THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the period ended 31 December 2023

