

Together CIO
People First: Trust: Collaboration
Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement
For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

Charity: Together CIO: 1206115

Together CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and was registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 8th December 2023. It operates under the objects as outlined in its constitution.

Registered Office: Guildhall, Marshalls Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA

Trustees:

Heidi Walton
John Lyden
Paul Tinsley

Staff Team:

Barry Rooks - Leader
Helen Sutton – Senior Project Officer
Laura Lee – Project Officer
Harry Ferguson – Green Team leader

Independent Examiner:

Dave Harford (Clerk, West Stockwith Parish Council)
Email: dave.harford@outlook.com
Tel: 01427 852032

Together: 1206115

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Background

The Together Initiative was originally conceived in 2022 as part of a Safer Streets funded project. Following extensive engagement with local agencies, organisations, residents and other stakeholders with a passion for the area, the conclusion was that if we are to see long lasting positive change then we must work together. Residents felt let down, neglected and tired of promises being made and broken. They lacked hope that things would ever change and had begun to lose trust.

Structure

The Together CIO was created in December 2023 to enable land agreements to be signed. The governance and financial management responsibilities for Together are currently shared between our parent organisation, Voluntary Centre Services, and the Together board. Together's leader and trustees are working with members of VCS's Senior Management Team to transition the full responsibility for the Together Initiative over to the board by 1st April 2026. We are currently developing the capacity of our board to be ready for this.

The Vision that drives us

We see:

A thriving, resilient neighbourhood where local people lead the way in building a safer, cleaner, greener and more connected community.

Strong partnerships and inclusive local decision-making that breaks down barriers, unlocks potential, and creates lasting positive change.

A neighbourhood where everyone feels proud to live, work and belong.

The Mission

Improving the lives of everyone living and working in the SouthWest Ward of Gainsborough, to help create a healthy thriving community for all.

We are passionate about revitalizing the Southwest Ward of Gainsborough into a safer, greener, healthier, thriving neighbourhood for all.

Our community-driven projects encourage community connections and well-being, raise aspirations and increase knowledge and skills.

Key Goals for 2025-2030:

1: Increase access to open spaces, outdoor activities, and community facilities

2: Enhance and protect nature and biodiversity

3: Develop community spirit, engagement & well-being

4: Grow Together into an established sustainable charity

Each of these goals has several objectives, the detail of which is outlined in the Together Business Plan: '*The Way Ahead*'

To reach our goals the current projects and initiatives include:

1. **Scouts Hill:** a 30-40 acre green space we are preparing to be open to the public for walking and leisure activities.
2. The **Green Team** meets is a community gardening group which also maintains and develops our green spaces including Thorndike Way, Ashcroft Green, x-church gardens and Scouts Hill.
3. **Events & Community Walkabouts.** We run 3 annual events for the community: Games on the Green, Harvest on the Green and Christmas by the Green. These are free events, each attended by 300+ people. We also organise monthly Community Walkabouts bringing together local agencies, organisations and residents to discuss local issues and walk the neighbourhood engaging with local people.
4. As mentioned above we are working towards Together's full transition from VCS. Current funding opportunities being pursued will enable us to focus over the next 2 years to establish longer term more sustainable income streams.

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Key aims for each goal 2025-2026

Open Scouts Hill to the public (see project plan for detail)	Late 2025	Opening delayed due to CCTV installation (awaiting timescales from WLDC)
Extend land agreements (SH): Feb 2026-Feb 2027	Feb 2026	Barry to contact landowners (Dec 25) to begin discussions
Employ new staff member to focus on developing SH and expanding the reach of the Green Team	Jan 2026	£20k award received (4.9.25).
Develop Biodiversity Enhancement & Mngt Plan including seasonal habitat surveys – all sites.	Spring 2026	Green team leads to start discussions with LWT/Doddington – Oct/Nov 2025
Begin work towards phase 2 at Scouts Hill	2026	Begin discussions once Phase 1 is open (early 2026)
Involve more local people in leading & planning events and projects.	2026	Team to discuss early Jan 2026 to formulate strategy
Re-establish links with NHS colleagues and aspirations for a health facility in the area.	2026	Barry to contact Clare Credland to discuss by end of 2025
Complete CIO transition	April 2026	Follow transition action plan
Launch website and social media channel	Jan 2026	Laura currently working on – provide update mid Dec 25
Produce proposal for sustainable income and financial support streams	Jan 2026	Barry/Helen to draft proposal for January trustees meeting

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Key aims for each goal 2027/2030

- Purchase Anglian Water site to increase green space, add activity equipment & potential community venue. (Ashcroft Green Development project)
- Acquire (have use of) a permanent venue.

- Scouts Hill Phase 2 including nature reserve, increased activities, access and visitor centre.
- Develop proposal for Gainsborough-wide Green Heritage Trail & Together expansion beyond SW.

- Significant progress regarding community involvement, ownership and leadership of projects and initiatives.

- Establishing more longer-term income and funding streams to secure the work of Together for the next generation.

Blue sky – 2030 and beyond

Together expands its reach to cover Gainsborough, applying the principles and values that have been effective in the South West Ward.

Green Heritage Trail connecting all green spaces and heritage sites (old & new) throughout the town. Including launch of Tourist Information Centre.

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Become increasingly involved, alongside the key agencies and organisations in the long-term town wide strategy to see Gainsborough become a beacon for resident health, wellbeing and prosperity. To see the town re-discover its identity and become a destination of choice.

Community owned Health & Wellbeing centres established.

Key Markers and Highlights from 2024-25

1. Green Team established and now meets weekly - remains the only regular green space related group in the town.
2. Land agreements signed and completed in Feb 2024 for the Scouts Hill project. Four landowners have signed over their land to begin preparations to open to the public. Work commences onsite.
3. Mar 2025: 70 local people and organisations attend tree planting days on Scouts Hill – 2300 trees and hedges and saplings planted.
4. Three community events organised and run successfully with approximately 300 people attending each event.
5. Together CIO bank account opened Dec 2024.

Annual engagement figures



Financial accounts

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Together CIO: 2024-2025 Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement

The Together bank account was opened in November 2024. With only 4 months to report, activity has been minimal. Since the end of this reporting period, as we move towards the transition from Voluntary Centre Services, more budgets continue to be transferred to the Together account. Therefore, the activity within the account has greatly increased. The final transfer on 1st April 2026 will revolve around the salaries and the National Lottery funding that supports them.

Most of the funding received, as detailed below, is all related to the Scouts Hill Country Park project. The entirety of the expenditure is related to the same project. A new reserves policy will be included within the first full financial year report for the the charity (2025-2026).

TOGETHER CIO

INCOME		
DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
21/11/2024	Investors in Lincoln transfer from VCS	10,000.00
20/01/2025	Interest	1.75
30/01/2024	Leap - arts payment T001	1,433.00
05/02/2025	Mercers transfer from VCS	8,000.00
20/02/2025	Interest	14.62
20/03/2025	Interest	15.37
20/03/2025	Thonock Trust Cheque	10000.00
21/03/2025	GLAP Reimbursement for Solicitor Fee	1200.00
TOTAL		30,664.74

EXPENDITURE		
DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
18/12/2024	Mary Hollis Consultancy INV 023	1000.00
10/01/2025	Account Fee	5.00
10/02/2025	Account Fee	5.00
13/02/2025	JCM Building and Fencing	4340.00
26/02/2025	JCM Building and Fencing	1480.00

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Together CIO: 2024-2025 Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement

07/03/2025	Sara Bright Arboricultural Consultant	450.00	Restricted
07/03/2025	Clear Insurance Management	532.25	Restricted
13/03/2025	Account Fee	5.00	Unrestricted
13/03/2025	Burton and Dyson Solicitors	1200.00	Restricted
TOTAL		9,017.25	

FUNDS

INCOME	
Restricted	Unrestricted
21,200.00	9464.74

EXPENDITURE	
Restricted	Unrestricted
9002.25	15.00

BALANCE	
31/03/2025	21,647.49
Restricted	12,197.75
Unrestricted	9449.74

SIGNED:



(trustee)

HEIDI WALTON

SIGNED:



(trustee)

JOHN LYDEN

DATE:

24/11/25

Together: 1206115

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Together CIO

1206115

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

12/8/2023

To

3/31/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Investors in Lincoln		10,000	-	10,000	-
Mercers Tranfer from VCS	8,000	-	-	8,000	-
Thonock Trust Cheque	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
GLAP reimbursment for Solicitor Fee	-	1,200	-	1,200	-
LEAP Arts payment	1,433	-	-	1,433	-
Interest on savings account	32	-	-	32	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,465	21,200	-	30,665	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	9,465	21,200	-	30,665	-
A3 Payments					
Mary Hollis Consultancy INV023	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
JCM building and Fencing	-	5,820	-	5,820	-
Sara Bright Arboricultural Consultant	-	450	-	450	-
Clear Insurance Management	-	532	-	532	-
Burton and Dyson Soilicitors	-	1,200	-	1,200	-
Account Fees	15	-	-	15	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	15	9,002	-	9,017	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	15	9,002	-	9,017	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,450	12,198	-	21,648	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	9,450	12,198	-	21,648	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	HSBC Account	9,450	12,198	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	9,450	12,198	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

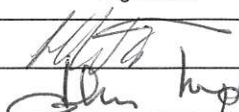
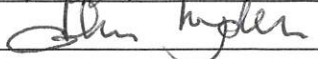
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	HEIDI WALTON	24/11/25
	JOHN LYDEN	24/11/25

Dave Harford
Benedict Cottage
Canal Lane, West Stockwith
Nottinghamshire, DN10 4ET
Email: dave.harford@outlook.com
Tel: 01427 892032

**INTERNAL AUDIT FOR TOGETHER CIO CHARITY
YEAR ENDING 31st March 2025**

The internal audit was carried out on Friday 21st November 2025 which included all the appropriate paperwork as detailed below.

1. Payments made were supported by:
 - bank statements,
 - Accounts summary sheet,
2. Expenditure was supported by:
 - bank statements,
 - Accounts summary sheet,
3. All the accounts were checked and fully reconciled. These were all found to be correct. The Charity's bank accounts were fully documented and reconciled at the year ending 31st March 2025.
4. The charity has completed all the relevant paperwork for the Charity Commission.

I was fully satisfied with my audit and would like to thank Barry for the provision of all the documentation to allow the audit to take place.



Dave Harford
C. Eng B Sc.



24/11/25