

Charitable Registration Number 1209373

Cars Area Together Charitable Incorporated Organisation

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Cars Area Together CIO

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## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Chair**

Conrad Parke

### **Other Trustees**

Jean Hamilton

Jill Dunlevy

Chetan Parmar

Mark Caddick (Parish Councillor), (Safeguarding Lead)

Susan Baxter

Judy Tullett

### **Registered Office**

Auckland Hall,

25, Sunbeam Close,

Smith's Wood,

B36 9JR

### **Charitable Registration Number**

1209373

### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank

### **Independent Examiner**

Hannah Dunlevy

## **Cars Area Together CIO**

### **Trustees Annual Report for the period from xxxx to xxx**

Cars Area Together CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation established on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024. The trustees adopted a constitution on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 in accordance with the foundation model published by the Charities Commission. Cars Area Together CIO was established for charitable purposes for public benefit and registered with the charitable number of **1209373**. It is the legacy organisation emerging from the former Cars Area Together Big Local programme which had operated in the north of Solihull from 2012. The Big Local programme was a resident led initiative which has resulted in a community centred CIO being established. During the lifetime of the Big Local programme, Cars Area Together spent almost £1.2 million of National Lottery funding which enabled residents to lead activities, projects and programmes delivered across the Smith's Wood area, North Solihull.

### **Trustees and Management**

Cars Area Together is managed by a Board of Trustees, whose duties and responsibilities are as follows:

1. To exercise his or her powers and to perform his or her functions as a trustee of the charity in a way he or she decides would most likely further the purposes of the charity; and
2. To exercise in the performance of those functions with such care and skill as is reasonable in the circumstances having regard in particular to;
  - a. Any special knowledge and experience that he or she has or holds himself or herself as having and
  - b. If he or she, as a Trustee of the charity, in the course of a business or profession, to any special knowledge or experience that is reasonable to expect of a person acting in the course of that kind of business or profession.
3. To keep proper accounting records to give a true and fair representation of the charity's activities, to ensure they can achieve their aims and objectives.
4. To comply with the requirements of the Charities Act (2011) and the appropriate Charities Accounts and Reports regulations.

The trustees were appointed for a period of 3 years. Some trustees were associated with the former Big Local project while others were selected based on their local

knowledge, the skills and experience they bring with them and their support for the local community.

The trustees met on 6 occasions between August 2024 and October 2025 to establish and review performance against the agreed Business Plan and monitor the organisation's progress against the approved purposes and targets. The trustees also agreed to essential policies and procedures as required by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and also set a review timetable to ensure that they remain up to date, compliant and relevant.

Policies agreed by trustees include:

- Safeguarding for Children and Vulnerable Adults (including the nomination of a trustee to be the responsible officer for Safeguarding, given his appropriate knowledge and experience).
- Health and Safety, Risk assessments
- Complaints
- Financial controls, policies and procedures
- Risk Management , conflicts of interest, incident policy and procedures, expenses policy and procedures,

The trustees also agreed of the appropriate insurance policies and procedures to ensure compliance with contractors and funders.

### **Related Organisations**

Cars Area Together is partnered with The Colebridge Trust, a local charity based in Chelmsley Wood, Solihull. They host the staff who work for Cars Area Together and provide back-office services including IT and communications support. Cars and The Colebridge Trust also partner to deliver a range of place-based activities for local residents across North Solihull.

Day to day operations are managed by the Cars Area Together's Operations Manager with a team of staff and volunteers and they are directed by the Trustees who meet every 2 months or more often if there are essential matters to discuss. Other partner organisations provide services and activities for local people, including support with training and employment, healthy lifestyles support for older people and skills and activities targeting local young people.

### **Management of Risk**

As a former Big Local project, Cars Area Together already had a range of policies and procedures which helped to understand and mitigate risk. These were often

shared by our locally trusted organisation, The Colebridge Trust, who have been generous with their time in sharing best practice, up to date policies and procedures and advice. Policies approved since the CIO was set up include Data Protection, Safeguarding Adults and Childre, Equality and Diversity, Health and Safety, Complaints and Whistleblowing. These can be accessed via our dedicated website, [www.carsareatogether.co.uk](http://www.carsareatogether.co.uk).

Other Risk Management strategies are embedded into our plans :-

- **Financial risk:** diversified income reduces reliance on single sources; we can scale non-core activities if required.
- **Cost pressures:** energy efficiency measures and flexible staffing will mitigate rising costs.
- **Asset risk:** a sinking fund within reserves will support major repairs.
- **Operational continuity:** strong partnerships help maintain delivery despite staffing changes.
- **Governance risk:** ongoing trustee recruitment and training ensures continuity of skills and leadership.

### Objectives and Activities

Our charitable objects are: -

The promotion for the benefit of the public of urban regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation in North Solihull by all or any of the following means:-

- (A) The prevention or relief of poverty in such ways as the trustees may from time to time determine;
- (B) The provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large and/or those who, by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities;
- (C) The advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people;
- (D) The maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities;

(E) The promotion of public safety and prevention of crime.

### **What we do.**

Cars Area Together CIO aims to provide activities, events and services for all community members in and around Smith's Wood in North Solihull. The menu of regular activities has been developed over a period of at least 12 years following extensive and on-going consultation with our community. Regular community events attract lots of local people and our team of volunteers help us to arrange these locally – often as fundraisers for local charities.

We have a weekly timetable of activities for residents of all ages and with a variety of interests as well as offer services provided by partners. The Colebridge Trust provides health support, a Job Club and support for young people going into further education and training. Solihull College offer lots of place-based learning opportunities for local people. Over 300 people visit our community hub at Auckland Hall every week and Summer and Christmas events can attract over 500 people.

Regular social events enable the community to get together and share fun activities, explore opportunities to do gardening, go walking together, play games and sports and learn new crafting skills.

All community members are welcome to take part in whatever is provided (except where they are age or gender specific), the programme having been developed over many years and taking into account interests expressed by our followers.

Each holiday period the staff and volunteer team offer Play activities for local young people through a Solihull MBC Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) contract. Up to 30 young people (most of whom have free school meals), are offered activities for up to 3 days each week when the schools are on holiday. A team of volunteers support the staff to deliver activities both on site and at local venues so that there is a variety of opportunities for our local children. Several of the older children now also volunteer on this programme as role models and champions for our local young people.

We do not make grants to other organisations to provide activities in our community but we will welcome various partners if our residents are keen to pursue other activities or interests.

We cannot underestimate the contribution made by our volunteers who help us to deliver a full programme of activities across the year.

### **Financial Performance**

This year was the first year operating as a CIO and the final year as a Big Local. Lots of the activity costs were covered either by grant funding eg from SMBC's programme of grants including Household Support Fund activities as well as other

National Lottery funded activities. The end of the Big Local funding also contributed to activity and staff costs during this period. The Big Local funding was finalised and completed at the end of September 2025.

The aim of the coming year will be to achieve a mixed income stream which will ensure the ongoing future of the charity.

### **Goals and Objectives for 2025-2026**

The main objective for Cars Area Together for the coming year is to achieve a community asset transfer of the community hub at Auckland Hall which is currently leased from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. This will be a first of this kind of initiative for the Council and we aim to achieve this during the next year of operations in order to secure the future of the CIO.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature



Full Name

CONRAD PAGE

Position

CHAIR

Date

11/8/26

To attach accounts CC16a pro forma as a separate excel document.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

CAR'S AREA TOGETHER CIO

1205373

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

1/10/2024

To

31/03/2025

### Section A Receipts and payments

|                                                       | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Endowment<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Total funds<br>to the nearest £ | Last year<br>to the nearest £ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>A1 Receipts</b>                                    |                                              |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| Charitable grants / funding                           | 24,269                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 24,269                          | 13,162                        |
| Donations                                             | 130                                          | -                                       | -                                      | 130                             | -                             |
| Other                                                 | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | 1,000                         |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)                | 24,399                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 24,399                          | 14,162                        |
| <b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>    |                                              |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                                 | 24,399                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 24,399                          | 14,162                        |
| <b>A3 Payments</b>                                    |                                              |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| Bank charges                                          | 68                                           | -                                       | -                                      | 68                              | -                             |
| Accounting Software Charges                           | 4                                            | -                                       | -                                      | 4                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | 72                                           | -                                       | -                                      | 72                              | -                             |
| <b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b> |                                              |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                 | 72                                           | -                                       | -                                      | 72                              | -                             |
| <b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>                     | 24,327                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 24,327                          | 14,162                        |
| <b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>                     | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>                    | 14,162                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 14,162                          | -                             |
| <b>Cash funds this year end</b>                       | 38,489                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 38,489                          | 14,162                        |

## 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 £ |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>B1 Cash funds</b>                                        | Cash in bank            | 38,489                          | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             | <b>Total cash funds</b> | <b>38,489</b>                   | <b>-</b>                      | <b>-</b>                     |
| (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))      |                         |                                 |                               |                              |
| <b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>                             | Details                 | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|                                                             |                         | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         | -                               | -                             | -                            |
| <b>B3 Investment assets</b>                                 | Details                 | Fund to which asset belongs     | Cost (optional)               | Current value (optional)     |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
| <b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>         | Details                 | Fund to which asset belongs     | Cost (optional)               | Current value (optional)     |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             | -                            |
| <b>B5 Liabilities</b>                                       | Details                 | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional)         | When due (optional)          |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             |                              |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             |                              |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             |                              |
|                                                             |                         |                                 | -                             |                              |
| Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees | Signature               | Print Name                      | Date of approval              |                              |
|                                                             |                         |                                 |                               |                              |
|                                                             |                         |                                 |                               |                              |