

**STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE
FREEMEN OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MICHAELMAS 2023
(29 SEPTEMBER 2023)**

Registered charity number: 227620

**ARMSTRONG WATSON
Chartered Accountants
Newcastle upon Tyne**

**STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE
FREEMEN OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
(THE TOWN MOOR CHARITY)**

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**STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE
FREEMEN OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
(THE TOWN MOOR CHARITY)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MICHAELMAS 2023**

Charity registered number:	227620
Chairman:	H D Wilson
Vice Chairman:	N B Atkinson
Stewards Committee:	<div>P Anderson H Alder C G Atkinson N B Atkinson A R Bainbridge K Hall J Johnson B Nesbitt S W D Walker H D Wilson P Powell P Summerhill D G Waugh FCA</div> <div>(appointed 9 October 2023) (resigned 9 October 2023) (appointed 10 October 2022) (appointed 10 October 2022)</div>
Hon Treasurer:	D G Waugh FCA
Principal Office:	Moor Bank Lodge Claremont Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NL
Auditors:	Armstrong Watson Audit Limited One Strawberry Lane Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BX
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank Plc Grey Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1SL
Investment Managers:	CCLA Investment Management Limited One Angel Lane London EC4R 3AB

**STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE
FREEMEN OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
(THE TOWN MOOR CHARITY)**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MICHAELMAS 2023**

The Stewards Committee are pleased to present their report, together with the audited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended Michaelmas 2023.

Reference and administrative details set out on page 1 form part of this report. The financial statements comply with the accounting policies set out in note 2, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity's governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice 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).

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Charity is registered with the Charity Commission as The Town Moor Charity, Registration Number 227620. The Stewards Committee of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne manages the affairs of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne in accordance with the governing documents; the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988 and the Rules and Orders of the Stewards of the Incorporated Companies of the Freemen of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Recruitment and appointment of Stewards Committee

The Stewards Committee is the body of trustees appointed by annual election each Michaelmas Guild. Any Steward of a Company of Freemen is eligible to stand for election. There are 28 active Companies of Freemen with 82 Company Stewards, who represent 1,880 Freemen.

At the Michaelmas Guild, the Stewards Committee consisting of not less than 9 and not more than 12 Stewards shall be elected under the authority of Section 6 of the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988. Each Steward elected to the Stewards Committee shall remain a member of the Committee until the next Michaelmas Guild or until earlier resignation, even should he cease to be a Steward in the interim period. Should a member of the Stewards Committee die or resign from the Committee then the Committee has the power to co-opt any Steward to fill any casual vacancy until the Michaelmas Guild next following such vacancy.

Induction and support for trustees in exercising duties

The induction and training of trustees is dealt with according to individual need and supported by an Information Pack outlining the role and responsibilities of being a trustee as well as information parochial to the affairs and good management of the Charity.

Organisation

The Stewards Committee acts as an executive body and is accountable to the overall body of Freemen to whom they report on matters of operational and strategic significance in relation to the Town Moor three times a year at the Corpus Christi, Michaelmas and Lent Guilds. The Stewards Committee hold a full committee meeting each month, with other meetings being held as and when required. The Town Moor Superintendent is appointed by the Stewards Committee to effectively co-ordinate the day to day operational affairs of the organisation in direct working liaison with designated trustees.

Related parties

1. Town Moor Money Charity (linked charity)

Initially this was part of the Town Moor Charity, but in 1967 the Charity Commission advised setting up a separate Charity and this was encapsulated in the provision of The Charities (Town Moor Money Charity, Newcastle upon Tyne) Order 1970. The income of the Town Moor Money Charity is derived from the letting of Intakes. The Stewards Committee are the body responsible for allocation of land and negotiation of rents for Intake areas. An Intake is an area of land not currently used for grazing as specified in the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988 for which the overall area set aside for such purposes must not exceed 100 acres in total. In 2018, permission was granted by the Charity Commission to treat the charity as a linked charity for registration and accounting purposes. The funds of the Charity are reported within restricted funds within these financial statements. The Stewards of the Incorporated Companies of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne is the reporting charity.

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MICHAELMAS 2023**

Related parties *(continued)*

2. St Mary Magdalene and Holy Jesus Trust

The Freemen have a direct link with this Trust in that members of the Stewards Committee serve on the Board of trustees along with representatives of the City Council and other care providing organisations. The Trust, as an Alms House charity, provides an allocated number of bungalows for Freemen, their widows and daughters, on land which formed part of the Town Moor.

Risk management

The trustees actively review the major risks which the Charity faces on a regular basis and believe that by maintaining reserves combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Objectives and activities

The Stewards Committee adopts schemes and policies with regard to ensuring the effective maintenance of the Newcastle Town Moor, overseeing investments and income generated to fund the daily management and improvement of the Town Moor, all of which is aimed at securing the wellbeing for grazing for future generations of Freemen and safeguarding the open space for the citizens of Newcastle to enjoy traditional rights of 'air and exercise', in accordance with the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988.

In essence, the strategic direction of the Charity focuses on the Stewards Committee maintaining and successfully managing the Town Moor for grazing, albeit in an urban environment, whilst also looking to the confidence of the general public in this major environmental asset. Under the Act, the Town Moor is safeguarded from encroachment and risk of development by the continuation of grazing therefore land management issues centre around sustaining proper standards of agricultural cultivation and maintenance of boundaries whilst trying to balance bio-diversity. The overriding aim is to maintain the required standard within budget and which is dependent upon the income in any fiscal year.

In planning and carrying out the Charity's activities for the year, the trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charities Commission on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Achievements and performance

- Our statutory commitments continued to be met including the overriding obligation to graze the Town Moors.
- The Town Moors were maintained and kept available to the public for air-and-exercise.
- As part of our environmental improvement and climate change mitigation plans a major programme of tree/hedge planting projects across the Moors was progressed,
- The facilitation of public events including music concerts, fairgrounds, community/cultural events, circus and religious gatherings. The exceptional wet weather conditions in the second half of the year impacted on some events and the consequent detrimental effect to the surface of the moors necessitated significant reinstatement works to be undertaken.
- Our strategy to increase engagement with stakeholders continued, including the production of informational videos on several topics.

Financial review

Net income, after net losses on investments, was £258,019 (2022: net expenditure after net losses on investments was £10,337) as disclosed in the statement of financial activities on page 9. The total funds at Michaelmas 2023 amounted to £5,117,181 (2022: £4,859,162).

The principal sources of income comprise rents, wayleaves, lettings and investment income and in accordance with the provisions of the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988, the Stewards Committee applies the income to the improvement and management of the Newcastle Town Moor.

**STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE
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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MICHAELMAS 2023**

Investment policy

The Charity's investment policy is to have a diverse base to spread risk whilst simultaneously aiming for capital appreciation at least equivalent to inflation and an income return sufficient to meet future capital expenditure needs and ongoing and cyclical operational costs not recovered from income from operations.

The investments held by the Charity are quoted investments from which income of £150,614 (2022: £122,238) was received during the year. The quoted investments are mainly professionally managed by CCLA Investment Management Limited (Charities Official Investment Funds). The fair value of the investments was £4,093,875 (2022: £4,185,967). The trustees consider the investment return to be in line with the investment objectives set.

Reserves policy

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves which are those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The trustees consider that the reserves held are sufficient to generate income to meet the costs of the maintenance, reinstatement and management if there was a drop in rental or other income from the Town Moor. The free reserves not invested in fixed assets, designated and restricted funds at Michaelmas 2023 were £585,609 (2022: £581,706).

The restricted capital reserve of the Charity amounted to £1,496,583 (2022: £1,529,037) and is held specifically under the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988 to be used to finance improvements to the Town Moor.

The total restricted funds of the linked charity at Michaelmas 2023 were £79,708 (Michaelmas 2022: £50,008).

Plans for future period

Funding provision is being set aside for capital and revenue schemes including:

- Ongoing fence-line replacement/enhancement, including internal fences for the protection of newly planted trees and hedges.
- Maintenance and improvement of pedestrian and vehicle accesses.
- Drainage and flood risk mitigation on the main Town Moor.
- Ongoing facilitation of events and fairs on Moors.
- Environmental improvement schemes, including further tree and hedge planting as well as the creation of wildflower areas.
- Continuing to enhance communications and improving engagement with Company Stewards, all Freemen and the general public.
- Review and potential renovation/upgrade of administrative accommodation.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Committee of Stewards and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 Charity and of the income and application of resources of the Charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 Charity will continue in operation.

**STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE
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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MICHAELMAS 2023

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements *(continued)*

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the governing documents. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

On behalf of the Stewards Committee

H D Wilson
Chairman
3 April 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE FREEMEN OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (THE TOWN MOOR CHARITY)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Stewards of the Incorporated Companies of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne (The Town Moor Charity), the Charity, for the year ended Michaelmas 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at Michaelmas 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity 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 our 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 Charity'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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Committee of Stewards other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Report of the Committee of Stewards. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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 course of 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE FREEMEN OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (THE TOWN MOOR CHARITY)

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Report of the Committee of Stewards; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 4 and 5, the trustees 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 Charity'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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

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 an auditor's report 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the Charity, discussions with trustees who are those charged with governance, we considered that the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988 and UK taxation legislation.

As part of the engagement team discussion about the susceptibility of the Charity's financial statements to material misstatement due to fraud, we did not identify any areas with an increased risk.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to identified risks, including non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud, which may have a material effect on the financial statements. Our audit procedures included but were not limited to:

- enquiry of the trustees and review of any relevant correspondence with legal advisers regarding any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- communicating identified laws and regulations and the risks of fraud with our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance or fraud;
- gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- examining supporting documents for all material balances, transactions and disclosures;
- review of the minutes of the Stewards Committee;
- review of accounting estimates for trustee override and bias;
- analytical procedures to identify any unusual transactions;
- identifying and testing journal entries.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS OF THE
INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE FREEMEN OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (THE TOWN
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Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements of the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK).

The potential effects of inherent limitations are particularly significant in the case of misstatement resulting from fraud because fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

The primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with those charged with governance.

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 auditor's report.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an independent 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 Charity and Charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Armstrong Watson Audit Limited
Statutory Auditor
One Strawberry Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4BX

Date: 24 April 2024

Armstrong Watson Audit Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor under Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE
FREEMEN OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR TO MICHAELMAS 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income from :					
Grants and donations		-	845	845	1,604
Charitable activities	4	560,392	52,160	612,552	460,140
Other trading activities	5	15,395	-	15,395	7,862
Investments	6	150,422	192	150,614	122,238
Other	7	25,492	-	25,492	103,722
Total income		751,701	53,197	804,898	695,566
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	8	431,290	23,497	454,787	539,400
Total expenditure		431,290	23,497	454,787	539,400
Net income		320,411	29,700	350,111	156,166
Net losses on investments		(59,638)	(32,454)	(92,092)	(166,503)
Net income (expenditure) and movement in funds		260,773	(2,754)	258,019	(10,337)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,280,117	1,579,045	4,859,162	4,869,499
Total funds carried forward	18	3,540,890	1,576,291	5,117,181	4,859,162

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form part of these financial statements

**STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE
FREEMEN OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
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BALANCE SHEET

AS AT MICHAELMAS 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	55,669	28,977
Inalienable and heritage assets	13	-	-
Investments	14	4,093,875	4,185,967
		<u>4,149,544</u>	<u>4,214,944</u>
Current assets			
Biological assets	15	17,510	11,798
Debtors	16	325,049	99,213
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,278,430</u>	<u>1,871,097</u>
		<u>2,620,989</u>	<u>1,982,108</u>
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(1,653,352)</u>	<u>(1,337,890)</u>
Net current assets		<u>967,637</u>	<u>644,218</u>
Net assets		<u><u>5,117,181</u></u>	<u><u>4,859,162</u></u>
Funds:			
Unrestricted	18a	3,540,890	3,280,117
Restricted	18b	<u>1,576,291</u>	<u>1,579,045</u>
Total funds	18	<u><u>5,117,181</u></u>	<u><u>4,859,162</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Stewards Committee on 3 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

H D Wilson

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form part of these financial statements

**STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR TO MICHAELMAS 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by operating activities (a)	287,702	184,614
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest from investments	150,614	122,238
Purchase of plant and equipment	(43,233)	(17,468)
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	12,250	-
	<u>119,631</u>	<u>104,770</u>
Change in cash in the year ended Michaelmas 2023	407,333	289,384
Cash at Michaelmas 2022	1,871,097	1,581,713
Cash at Michaelmas 2023	<u><u>2,278,430</u></u>	<u><u>1,871,097</u></u>
Cash at bank	2,212,413	1,828,164
Cash at bank - linked charity	<u>66,017</u>	<u>42,933</u>
	<u><u>2,278,430</u></u>	<u><u>1,871,097</u></u>
	2023	2022
	£	£
a) Reconciliation of net income (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net movement in funds for the year ended Michaelmas 2023 (as per the statement of financial activities)	258,019	(10,337)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	12,455	10,318
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(8,164)	-
Losses on investments	92,092	166,503
Dividends and interest from investments	(150,614)	(122,238)
Increase in biological assets (livestock)	(5,712)	(2,428)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(225,836)	51,463
Increase in creditors	315,462	91,333
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u><u>287,702</u></u>	<u><u>184,614</u></u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR TO MICHAELMAS 2023

1. General information

The Stewards of the Incorporated Companies of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne (The Town Moor Charity) is a registered charity, number 227260. The Charity is unincorporated and its registered office is Moor Bank Lodge, Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4NL.

2. Accounting policies

(a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost unless otherwise stated. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 1 January 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity.

(b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity has reviewed its cash flow forecasts and there is a reasonable expectation that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for at least the next twelve months and on this basis the Charity trustees consider to be a going concern.

(c) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds

i) Income and expenditure

The income and expenditure fund is credited with income arising from the Charity's activities and is charged with the costs involved in the maintenance of the Town Moor and the Charity's governance costs.

Designated funds

i) General reserve

The general reserve represents funds that are invested to provide income to meet the costs of the Charity.

ii) Town Moor Fund

The Town Moor Fund represents funds received to be used to finance the Charity's proportion of agreed improvements to be undertaken with the City of Newcastle upon Tyne and the Freemen.

Restricted funds

i) Capital reserve

The capital reserve represents funds received under the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988 which are to be used to finance improvements to the Town Moor.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR TO MICHAELMAS 2023**

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Restricted funds (continued)

ii) Town Moor Money Charity (linked charity)

The Town Moor Money Charity was established in accordance with The Charities (Town Moor Money Charity, Newcastle upon Tyne) Order 1970 and permission has been granted by the Charities Commission to treat it as a linked charity for registration and accounting purposes.

(d) Income recognition

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity has entitlement to the income, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income has been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Gifts in kind are included at valuation where material. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. To the extent that it relates to future periods, rental income is deferred and included within creditors in the balance sheet.

(e) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Charitable expenditure comprises all costs of activities in furtherance of the objects of the Charity. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the Charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff time spent on each activity and are shown in note 8 to the financial statements.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £1,000 (plant and equipment) and £100 (office equipment and fixtures and fittings) are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Plant and machinery	5 years straight line
Office equipment	3 years straight line
Fixtures and fittings	15% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	5 years straight line

(g) Inalienable and heritage assets

As explained in note 13, inalienable and heritage assets have not been capitalised or depreciated.

(h) Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at cost and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the bid price. Gains or losses arising on revaluation or disposal are recognised in the statement of financial activities in the funds in which the investments are held.

(i) Biological assets

Biological assets consisting of livestock are valued at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

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2. Accounting policies (continued)

(j) Cash at bank

Cash at bank includes current and deposit instant access accounts, and a notice account.

(k) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions 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. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

(l) Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially measured at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

(m) Pensions

The Charity makes contributions to a NEST scheme for all qualifying employees. Employees are automatically enrolled on the pension scheme unless the Charity is notified by the employee that they wish to opt out. The cost of these contributions is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when payable.

3. Net income (expenditure)

2023
£ **2022**
£

Net income (expenditure) for the year is stated after charging:

Auditors' remuneration:

For audit services	5,720	3,560
For accountancy and other services	3,820	4,662
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	12,455	10,318
(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	(8,164)	-

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 £	2022 £
Rents, intakes, wayleaves and lettings				
Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988	129	-	129	129
Lettings	77,752	-	77,752	82,698
Rents and wayleaves	431,622	-	431,622	310,527
Rents - linked charity intakes	-	52,160	52,160	18,502
Town Moor herd				
Sales of livestock	47,844	-	47,844	42,615
Agricultural grants	3,045	-	3,045	5,669
	560,392	52,160	612,552	460,140

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 £	2022 £
Administration fee (stint tickets)	5,929	-	5,929	4,215
Miscellaneous	9,466	-	9,466	3,647
	15,395	-	15,395	7,862

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6 Income from investments	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Investments	122,328	-	122,328	121,095
Bank interest	28,094	-	28,094	1,134
Bank interest - linked charity	-	192	192	9
	<u>150,422</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>150,614</u>	<u>122,238</u>

7 Other income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Contribution towards Town Moor Fund projects	25,492	-	25,492	103,722

8 Total expenditure	Charitable activities	Governance costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
a) Charity				
Direct costs				
Staff costs, fees and expenses	127,051	10,200	137,251	115,291
Town Moor maintenance and reinstatement	90,479	-	90,479	232,571
Livestock costs	46,152	-	46,152	42,388
Freemen events	19,854	-	19,854	-
Raceweek Festival costs	8,488	-	8,488	7,483
Property repairs and refurbishment	3,015	-	3,015	9,666
General office costs	44,932	45	44,977	47,628
Interest due to City of Newcastle	20,534	-	20,534	898
Depreciation	12,455	-	12,455	10,318
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(8,164)	-	(8,164)	-
Legal and professional fees	10,191	-	10,191	11,191
Audit and accountancy fees	3,180	5,720	8,900	7,620
Guild event and expenses	-	6,638	6,638	5,119
Contribution to Incorporated Company expenses	2,400	-	2,400	2,700
Allocated support costs				
Staff costs	2,086	26,034	28,120	21,048
	<u>382,653</u>	<u>48,637</u>	<u>431,290</u>	<u>513,921</u>
b) Linked charity				
Direct costs				
Grants to individuals (Note 9)	23,150	-	23,150	21,100
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	4,139
Cathedral hire	312	-	312	200
General office costs	35	-	35	40
	<u>23,497</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,497</u>	<u>25,479</u>
	<u>406,150</u>	<u>48,637</u>	<u>454,787</u>	<u>539,400</u>

9 Linked charity - grants to individuals		2023	2022
		£	£
December 2021	85 beneficiaries	11,475	10,975
June 2023	76 beneficiaries	11,400	10,125
Special grants	2 beneficiaries	275	-
		<u>23,150</u>	<u>21,100</u>

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10 Staff costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries	142,518	117,815
Social security costs	9,246	5,944
Pension contributions	3,185	2,430
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	154,949	126,189
	<hr/>	<hr/>
The average number of employees, analysed by function was:		
Town Moor maintenance and reinstatement	3	3
Administrative staff	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000 per annum (2022: - None).

11 a) Trustees' remuneration and expenses and key management personnel

The Honorary Treasurer received £4,200 (2022: £4,162) for his duties from the Charity. £0 (2022: £1,604) of this amount was donated to the linked charity.

The trustees receive allowances to cover expenses incurred in performance of their duties. All trustees received such allowances during the year. This is specifically allowed in accordance with the Rules and Orders of the Stewards of the Incorporated Companies of Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne. The total amount paid was £6,000 to 12 trustees (2022: £5,500 to 11 trustees).

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the trustees.

Other than the above, the trustees received no remuneration from the Charity (2022 : None).

b) Related party transactions

Company Stewards attending relevant meetings receive an expense allowance of £20. This is specifically allowed in accordance with the Rules and Orders of the Stewards of the Incorporated Companies of Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne. The total amount paid was £3,600 (2022 : £3,300).

There were no other related party transactions requiring disclosure.

12 Tangible assets	Plant and machinery £	Office equipment £	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total £
Cost					
At Michaelmas 2022	173,275	26,871	1,110	14,750	216,006
Additions	36,810	400	-	6,023	43,233
Disposals	(33,740)	-	-	-	(33,740)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At Michaelmas 2023	176,345	27,271	1,110	20,773	225,499
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation					
At Michaelmas 2022	161,821	22,939	794	1,475	187,029
Charge for year	6,660	1,995	47	3,753	12,455
On disposals	(29,654)	-	-	-	(29,654)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At Michaelmas 2023	138,827	24,934	841	5,228	169,830
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value					
At Michaelmas 2023	37,518	2,337	269	15,545	55,669
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At Michaelmas 2022	11,454	3,932	316	13,275	28,977
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**STEWARDS OF THE INCORPORATED COMPANIES OF THE
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13 Inalienable and heritage assets

Under the terms of the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988, the Charity is entitled to half of the rental, other income and capital receipts arising from the Town Moor, to be applied for the maintenance and improvement of the Town Moor, and in defraying the general expenses of the Stewards Committee. Income from grants of intake leases are wholly receivable by the Charity. The Charity is also entitled under the Act to half of any capital monies arising, to be used to finance improvements to the Town Moor or to be invested until required.

Under the terms of the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1988 the linked charity is entitled to rents from the intakes which have been designated by the Stewards of the Incorporated Companies of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne (The Town Moor Charity).

The trustees have not attributed a value in the financial statements to the above rights as significant costs would be involved which would not provide any useful benefit to the users of the financial statements.

The Charity also owns a Chairman's Chain of Office and a Vice Chairman's Medallion. These are irreplaceable originals to which no reliable cost or value can be attributed. A ring commemorating a victory acknowledging the rights of the Freemen, thus securing the future of the Town Moor at the instigation of the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act 1774, was acquired in 2003 at a cost of £3,411 and was written off during that year. In 2013, the Newcastle upon Tyne Lord Mayor's coach was purchased from Newcastle City Council jointly by the Charity and Shepherd Offshore for a cost of £25,000 each and was treated as an expense during that year. The objectives of the purchase were to retain this historic artefact within the City.

14 Investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Investments at fair value comprised :				
Listed investments				
At Michaelmas 2022	2,686,857	1,499,110	4,185,967	4,352,470
Purchase of investments	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Net losses on investments	(59,638)	(32,454)	(92,092)	(166,503)
At Michaelmas 2023	2,627,219	1,466,656	4,093,875	4,185,967
Historical cost at Michaelmas 2023 and 2022	1,854,486	811,642	2,666,128	2,666,128

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investment in fixed interest and investment fund securities are all traded in quoted public markets. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value using the bid price.

15 Biological assets

	2023 £
Reconciliation of carrying amount:	
At Michaelmas 2022	11,798
Purchases of livestock	48,760
Sales of livestock	(43,048)
At Michaelmas 2023	17,510

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16 Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Rental and letting income	290,373	74,919
Rental and letting income - linked charity	10,078	8,463
Other debtors and prepayments	24,598	15,831
	<hr/> 325,049	<hr/> 99,213

17 Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Creditors and accruals	1,584,728	1,280,826
Deferred income	61,978	55,660
Deferred income - owed by linked charity	6,646	1,404
	<hr/> 1,653,352	<hr/> 1,337,890

18 Analysis of net assets between total funds	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets/(liabilities)	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Income and expenditure	55,669	304,158	281,451	641,278
Designated funds				
Town Moor Fund	-	850,543	576,551	1,427,094
General reserve	-	1,472,518	-	1,472,518
Restricted funds				
Capital reserve	-	1,466,656	29,927	1,496,583
Linked charity	-	-	79,708	79,708
	<hr/> 55,669	<hr/> 4,093,875	<hr/> 967,637	<hr/> 5,117,181

Analysis of net assets between total funds - previous year

	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Income and expenditure	28,977	304,158	277,548	610,683
Designated funds				
Town Moor Fund	-	850,543	286,735	1,137,278
General reserve	-	1,532,156	-	1,532,156
Restricted funds				
Capital reserve	-	1,499,110	29,927	1,529,037
Linked charity	-	-	50,008	50,008
	<hr/> 28,977	<hr/> 4,185,967	<hr/> 644,218	<hr/> 4,859,162

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18a Unrestricted funds : movements in the year	Income and expenditure £	Town Moor Fund £	General reserve £	Total £
Balance at Michaelmas 2022	610,683	1,137,278	1,532,156	3,280,117
Income	403,390	348,311	-	751,701
Expenditure	(370,184)	(61,106)	-	(431,290)
Net losses on investments	-	-	(59,638)	(59,638)
Transfer	(2,611)	2,611	-	-
Balance at Michaelmas 2023	641,278	1,427,094	1,472,518	3,540,890

Unrestricted funds : movements in the year - previous year

	Income and expenditure £	Town Moor Fund £	General reserve £	Total £
Balance at Michaelmas 2021	466,880	1,119,551	1,639,243	3,225,674
Income	381,729	293,722	-	675,451
Expenditure	(297,774)	(216,147)	-	(513,921)
Net losses on investments	-	-	(107,087)	(107,087)
Transfer	59,848	(59,848)	-	-
Balance at Michaelmas 2022	610,683	1,137,278	1,532,156	3,280,117

18b Restricted funds : movements in the year	Linked charity £	Capital reserve £	Total £
Balance at Michaelmas 2022	50,008	1,529,037	1,579,045
Income	53,197	-	53,197
Expenditure	(23,497)	-	(23,497)
Net losses on investments	-	(32,454)	(32,454)
Balance at Michaelmas 2023	79,708	1,496,583	1,576,291

Restricted funds : movements in the year - previous year

	Linked charity £	Capital reserve £	Total £
Balance at Michaelmas 2021	55,372	1,588,453	1,643,825
Income	20,115	-	20,115
Expenditure	(25,479)	-	(25,479)
Net losses on investments	-	(59,416)	(59,416)
Balance at Michaelmas 2022	50,008	1,529,037	1,579,045

Capital Reserve

Under the terms of the Town Moor Act capital sums received are to be used to finance improvements to the Town Moor or invested until required for that purpose.

Linked charity

The funds of the linked charity are separately identified as restricted funds. At Michaelmas 2023, the charity had net assets of £79,708 (Michaelmas 2022 £50,008).

19 Commitments

At the balance sheet date the Charity was committed to replacement of fencing, road and site reinstatement and engagement videos at a total cost of £48,860. No amount has been charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to Michaelmas 2023.