

BIRMINGHAM RETIREMENT COUNCIL

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Charity Number: 241670

BIRMINGHAM RETIREMENT COUNCIL
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

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BIRMINGHAM RETIREMENT COUNCIL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES

Mrs Vivienne Wilkes	President/Trustee
Mrs Jill Gorst	Chairman/Trustee
Sue Anderson Hon. Alderman	Treasurer/Trustee
Mrs Margaret Guy R.D.D.L	Vice Chairman/Trustee
Mrs Penny Wagg	B'ham City Council Representative/Trustee
Mrs Norma Burke	Trustee/Resigned 31 st March 2025
Mr Philip Williams	Fircone Representative
Mrs Fiona Matthews	Fircone Representative
Councillor Kerry Jenkins	B'ham City Council Representative

CHAPLAIN

To Be Appointed

MANAGEMENT STAFF

G Malcolm J Ford Esq	Executive Manager
Mrs Stephanie Rickett	Administrative Assistant
Lee R Harris Esq	Security Warden

REGISTERED OFFICE

Norman Leaker Centre
1237 Stratford Road
Hall Green
Birmingham
B28 9AA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Huntington Accountancy Services Ltd
Accountants and Financial Advisors
15 Stag Drive
Huntington
Cannock
Staffordshire
WS12 4UJ

BIRMINGHAM RETIREMENT COUNCIL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

The Trustees of Birmingham Retirement Council present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

Birmingham Retirement Council is constituted under a trust deed dated 11 March 1965 and is a registered Charity under Charity No.241670. The management of the Trust is the responsibility of the trustees who are elected or co-opted under the terms of the trust deed.

Organisation

Members of the Executive Committee act as trustees. The committee is comprised of honorary officers and other persons having particular interest and experience related to the problems of retirement. An Executive Manager is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity.

The trustees and management staff are set out on page 1.

Risk Management

The trustees actively review the major risks which face the charity and in particular those related to its operations and finance. The trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks.

Investment Policy

In the absence of any express power, the powers of investment are contained in the Trustee Act 2000 which confers a general power to invest.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Results - The results of the year's operations are set out in the attached financial statements. The net surplus for the year amounts to £1,359.00 with retained reserves at 31 March 2025 amounting to £170,313.00

The Charity's main sources of income comes from fees from Fircone leisure activities £32,749.00 and room lettings £19,890.00.

Tight financial control continues to be of paramount importance, with efforts continuing to be exerted in both the control of costs and innovative means of generating additional income.

Reserves

The financial statements show the assets and liabilities by type. The unrestricted funds amount to £130,907.00 but only £39,406.00 is freely available because the balance is designated for other purposes. The trustees feel that reasonably substantial free reserves are needed because of declining Fircone membership.

Accounting and reporting responsibilities

The trustees are required by law to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the charity and of its financial position at the end of that year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP have been followed, disclosing and explaining any material departures in the financial statements,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which 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. 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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The charity is a public benefit entity and complies with its duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011. Its objects are to advance the education of persons who have attained the age of 50 years and have retired from full time employment or are approaching retirement. It also aims to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their age or economic background. It does through its Friends in Retirement (Fircone) movement provide education and leisure activities for those people who have reached the age of 50 and are no longer in paid employment.

Chairman's review of activities and future developments

Year ended 31st March 2025

The Birmingham Retirement Council is pleased to report another successful year for the Charity including attracting 32 new members.

Early in the year the committee discussed the state of the buildings for which they are responsible, namely the newer part which was completed in the 1990s. A comprehensive list was drawn up of improvements which are desirable. The upkeep of the older part of the premises is the responsibility of Birmingham City Council, the owners, and following a request for repairs to the roof, a drone was dispatched in May to assess the work needed. We understand that a complete new roof is required but are still awaiting a decision on when that will be carried out.

In July we were happy to welcome two new members to the committee, Allan Long, a member of the ambling group and Stephanie Rickett who is already heavily involved with the Charity as an administrative assistant.

In August a 'gardening day' was organised. This only attracted a few members, but they managed to carry out a great deal of tidying and clearing of the site!

Also in August, the President, Vivienne Wilkes, expressed a wish to resign from those duties. Margaret Guy was appointed to replace her and Vivienne agreed to act as Vice-Chairman. We thank them both for their ongoing service to the Charity.

During September two members of the committee, Fiona Matthews and Stephanie Rickett, voluntarily carried out the redecorating necessary in the reception area, the office and the corridor. This brightened things up considerably! In the same month we welcomed another member on to the committee, Gaynor Rhine, who is an active member of several groups. Decoration and upgrading of all three toilets was carried out.

At the Annual General Meeting it was proposed and agreed by vote that from April 2025 an annual renewal fee of £5 would be introduced. The income from this will help towards the costs of the improvements needed.

In October a Line Dance evening was organised which proved to be very enjoyable and raised £540 for Charity funds.

November was the time for our Winter Fayre which raised a further £580. In December there was another Line Dance evening raising £370 and a new venture, a 'social event' was held for everyone. Two members of the woodwind group provided us with first class musical accompaniment.

During January 2025 the planned redecoration of the ballroom and kitchen was carried out. We are delighted with the results. The old curtains have been removed and Marlene Ford, wife of our Executive Manager Malcolm Ford, has offered to make the new curtains required for the mirror. Quotes will be obtained to replace the blinds.

A new website package was purchased which will allow up to three appointed people to make changes such as details of future events. It works well! It is hoped that this will attract more notice.

In March the Charity arm of 'Home Instead' gave a talk free of charge regarding the avoidance of scams. It was well attended and rated as a good and informative talk. Also in March the committee received the resignations of two long-serving committee members, Norma Burke and Jill Gorst. They have both been honoured to serve Birmingham Retirement Council in this capacity, but personal reasons dictate that the baton must now be passed on.

The committee offers it's thanks to all members, their friends and families who have volunteered in any way to keep the Birmingham Retirement Council, 'Fircone', charity alive for the senior residents of Birmingham.

Thanks also go to the Lord Mayor and the City for their valued and appreciated support.



Chairman

September 2025

BIRMINGHAM RETIREMENT COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025 We report to the trustees on my
examination of the accounts of the above

charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") as described on Page 3. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed

We report in respect of our examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out our examination, we have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Independent examiner's statement We have completed our examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination which give us cause to believe that in, any material respect:
the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Hartington Accountancy Services Limited

1st September 2025

Accountants and Financial Advisors
15 Stag Drive
Huntington
Cannock
Staffordshire WS12 4 UJ

BIRMINGHAM RETIREMENT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
From generated funds		22,700	22,700	21,075
From charitable activities		32,749	32,749	33,980
From Other resources		5,128	5,128	4,732
Total incoming resources	2	<u>60,577</u>	<u>60,577</u>	<u>59,787</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Cost of generated funds		25,776	25,776	22,401
Charitable activities		27,716	27,716	24,061
Governance costs		5,726	5,726	4,973
Total resources expended	3	<u>59,218</u>	<u>59,218</u>	<u>51,435</u>
Net movement in funds		1,359	1,359	8,352
Balances b/f as at 1 st April 2024		<u>168,954</u>	<u>168,954</u>	<u>160,602</u>
Balances c/f as at 31 st March 2025		<u>170,313</u>	<u>170,313</u>	<u>168,954</u>

- All transactions are derived from continuing activities
- All recognised gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

BIRMINGHAM RETIREMENT COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

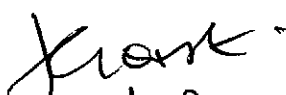
	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		130,907		136,572
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	5,128		4,732	
Cash at bank and in hand	9	38,618		31,673	
		<u>43,746</u>		<u>36,405</u>	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	4,340		4,023	
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
			39,406		32,382
NET ASSETS					
			<u>170,313</u>		<u>168,954</u>
FUNDS					
General funds			39,406		32,382
Designated funds	11		130,907		136,572
TOTAL FUNDS					
			<u>170,313</u>		<u>168,954</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 18th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

J Gorst

S Anderson




BIRMINGHAM RETIREMENT COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost basis and include the results of the charity's operations which are described in the Trustees' Report and all of which are continuing.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015) for charity accounts and the Charities Act 2011

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are amounts that have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources represents the total income receivable during the year comprising in the main, grants, donations and lettings.

Equipment & Stock

Equipment, Literature and Tearoom Supplies are written off in the year of purchase.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for gross, and when incurred. Direct charitable expenditure includes the direct costs of the activities and amortisation. Where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been split on an appropriate basis.

Amortisation

The leasehold property is being amortised over 50 years being the period of the lease.

2	INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	Generated Funds	£	£
	Investment income	-	-
	Letting & other income	19,890	19,175
	Activities for generating funds		
	Grants received	-	-
	Donations and legacies received	-	-
	Fund raising	2,490	1,550
	Subscriptions	320	350
		<u>22,700</u>	<u>21,075</u>
	From charitable activities		
	Fircone fees	32,749	33,980
		<u></u>	<u></u>
	Other incoming resources		
	Gift aid	5,128	4,732
		<u></u>	<u></u>
	Total Incoming Resources	<u>60,577</u>	<u>59,787</u>
3	RESOURCES EXPENDED		
	Cost of generating funds		
	Support costs	25,776	22,401
		<u></u>	<u></u>
	Charitable activities		
	Accommodation costs	1,940	1,112
	Support costs	25,776	22,401
		<u>27,716</u>	<u>24,061</u>
	Governance costs		
	Support costs	5,726	4,973
		<u></u>	<u></u>
	Total Resources Expended	<u>59,218</u>	<u>51,435</u>

4	SUPPORT COSTS.	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
		£	£
	Staff Costs		
	Salaries	27,268	25,473
		27,268	25,473
	Property Costs		
	Rent and service charges	---	1,342
	Rates & Council Tax	1,696	331
	Heat, Light and Water	6,673	5,527
	Insurance	2,238	2,074
	Repairs, and alterations	6,838	2,606
	Lease amortisation	<u>5,665</u>	<u>5,665</u>
		23,110	17,545
	Governance Costs.		
	Travel & Subsistence	2,848	3,070
	Examiners fees	300	250
	Professional fees	-	-
	Photocopier	512	474
	Printing, postage and stationery	270	300
	Telephone & internet	1,907	1,807
	Miscellaneous expenses	1,063	856
		<u>6,900</u>	<u>6,757</u>
	Allocation of Support Costs		
		Cost of	
		Generating	
		Funds	
			Charitable
			Activities
			Governance

Support costs have been apportioned between the costs of managing property, charitable activity and governance using an estimate of staff time being 45%, 45%, and 10% respectively. Any fundraising is done by trustees or volunteers.

5	EMPLOYEES AND STAFF COSTS	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
		<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>
	In aggregate the number of full and part time persons employed during the year in management and central services were		
	(Apr-June) 3		3
	(July-Aug) 3		3
	(Sept-Dec) 3		3
	((Dec-Mar) 3		3
	Staff costs were as follows:		
	Salaries	£27,268	£25,473
	No employee received emoluments greater than £50,000 (2024 – 2025 £NIL)		

6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REMUNERATION & REIMBURSED EXPENSES

No member of the trustees received remuneration for their services during the year (2024- 2025 £NIL)

No member of the trustees received any reimbursed expenses during the year (2024- 2025 £NIL)

7	TANGIBLE ASSETS	Leasehold Property £
	Cost	
	1 st April 2024	283,261
	Additions	0
	31 st March 2025	283,261
	Depreciation	
	1 st April 2024	146,689
	Charge for the year	5,665
	31 st March 2025	152,354
	Net Book Value	
	31 st March 2025	<u>130,907</u>

	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
9 DEBTORS		
Debtors and prepayments	<u>5,128</u>	<u>4,732</u>
9 CASH AT BANK & IN HAND		
Bank current account	38,218	31,550
Cash in hand	320	43
Petty Cash	80	80
	<u>38,618</u>	<u>31,673</u>
10 CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>4,340</u>	<u>4,022</u>
11 DESIGNATED FUNDS		
Building Fund Balance at 1 st April 2024	136,572	142,237
Amortisation	5,665	5,665
	<u>130,907</u>	<u>136,572</u>
Building Fund Balance at 31 st March 2025	130,907	136,572
12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS		
Restricted Funds	NIL	NIL
Unrestricted Funds		
Tangible assets	130,907	136,572
Current assets	43,746	36,405
Current liabilities & provisions	<u>(4,340)</u>	<u>(4,023)</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>170,313</u>	<u>168,954</u>

13 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At the 31st March 2025 the charity had no annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases.

14 INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Total incoming resources	60,577	59,787
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Staff costs	27,268	25,473
Administration costs	26,285	20,297
Amortisation	5,665	5,665
Total resources expended	59,218	51,435
INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCE	<u>1,359</u>	<u>8,352</u>

ANALYSIS

INCOMING RESOURCES	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Grants received	-		-	
Donations & legacies	-		-	
Group fees	32,749		33,980	
Subscriptions	320		350	
Fund raising	2,490		1,550	
Investment income	-		-	
Letting & other income	19,890		19,175	
Gift aid	<u>5,128</u>		<u>4,732</u>	
Total Income		<u>60,577</u>		<u>59,787</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED DETAIL				
STAFF COSTS				
Salaries		27,268		25,473
ADMINISTRATION COSTS				
Rent and Service Charge	-		-	
Professional Fees	300		250	
Accommodation Hire	1,940		1,660	
Printing, postage and stationery	270		300	
Photocopier	512		474	
Telephone & Internet	1,907		1,807	
Miscellaneous expenses	1,063		856	
Travel & Subsistence	2,848		3,070	
Heat, Light and Water	6,673		5,528	
Insurance	2,238		2,073	
Repairs and alterations	6,838		2,606	
Rates and Council Tax	<u>1,696</u>		<u>1,673</u>	
		26,285		20,297
AMORTISATION COSTS				
Amortisation – leasehold property		5,665		5,665
Total Expenditure		<u>59,218</u>		<u>51,435</u>
OUTGOING RESOURCES		<u>1,359</u>		<u>8,352</u>