

Charity no. 290575

**Design West  
Report and Unaudited Financial  
Statements  
31 March 2025**

## Design West

### Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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<b>Charity number</b>	290575																				
<b>Registered office and operational address</b>	16 Narrow Quay Bristol BS1 4QA																				
<b>Trustees</b>	<p>The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>N Childs</td><td>Resigned 31 December 2025</td></tr><tr><td>G Eddy</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>N Fairham (Chair)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S Hilton</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>C Kwiatkowski</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S Loyn</td><td>Resigned 25 October 2025</td></tr><tr><td>E Marco Burguete</td><td>Resigned 24 May 2024</td></tr><tr><td>C Mckeivor (Secretary)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>D Murphy</td><td>Resigned 25 July 2024</td></tr><tr><td>D Waterhouse</td><td></td></tr></table>	N Childs	Resigned 31 December 2025	G Eddy		N Fairham (Chair)		S Hilton		C Kwiatkowski		S Loyn	Resigned 25 October 2025	E Marco Burguete	Resigned 24 May 2024	C Mckeivor (Secretary)		D Murphy	Resigned 25 July 2024	D Waterhouse	
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D Waterhouse																					
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	Dr Anna Rutherford																				
<b>Bankers</b>	Natwest Bank plc 45 / 49 Broadmead Bristol BS1 3EU																				
<b>Independent examiners</b>	Godfrey Wilson Limited Chartered accountants and statutory auditors 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD																				

## **Design West**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The Board of Trustees presents its annual report and financial statements for Design West for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the constitution and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Introduction**

Founded in 1996, Design West is a centre of excellence for design & placemaking. This year we continued to work across the South West, strengthening our programmes, whilst partnering with the West of England Combined Authority to green our harbourside home and improve the building's energy performance.

Our public programme of talks, tours and our award-winning education initiative, Shape My City, continued to grow - attracting larger audiences and a more diverse range of participants. The prestigious Stirling Prize lectures drew the biggest regional audience to date, alongside events exploring nature, housing and global city-making, as we sharpened focus on designing places that support people, prosperity and planet. Six O'Clock Sessions turned our café-bar into a civic forum - bringing public, political and professional voices together for robust and respectful debate, modelling disagreement without division, and seeking shared solutions in an increasingly polarised world. The value of this work is reflected in the contribution of our volunteers: 102 people donated time and expertise worth £41k in-kind.

We also expanded our regional design services, supporting better outcomes for communities and the environment. Our programmes now operate across the South West - from Swindon to Cornwall, - with ten local authority partnerships in place for Design Review, supported by 190 expert panellists who contribute their time, considerable skill and judgement to shape a better built environment for everyone.

More people visited our venue than ever before, using our refurbished spaces for their own programmes and strengthening our network of partners and collaborators. We also opened up our officers through The Studio - a co-working Hub for knowledge exchange across the built environment and creative industries.

Towards year end, our CEO and Chair of Trustees, Nick Fairham led a restructure of the charity and trading arm to strengthen governance, delivery and to set a robust business plan for the next phase of our work.

It is a testament to our team, trustees, collaborators, audiences, funders and supporters that the charity once again delivered a strong year – increasing our reach and deepening our impact across the region.

## Design West

### Report of the trustees

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### 1) OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The design of our built and natural environment has a profound impact on our lives, shaping how we live every day.

Our health and wellbeing, our local economy and our climate are all shaped by the design choices we make. Everyone is impacted by the quality of the homes we live in, the design of our commutes and communities, and the schools, hospitals, blue and green spaces, and public realm we share.

When places are designed well, they support healthier, happier lives: people can move around safely, breathe clean air, feel connected to their community, stay active and access nature close to home. When they are designed poorly, they drive ill health, stress and inequality.

The built environment is also a major contributor to global carbon emissions (40%). In the context of a climate emergency, Design West has a key role to play in advocating for sustainable architecture and design.

Our mission is to inspire the public, politicians and professionals across the built environment to design, better, healthier, places to live, work and relax. We learn from our heritage to build our future. Our objects are to advance education and research in, and to foster public appreciation of, architecture and its related disciplines. As a registered charity we put design and social value at our heart.

Design West's programmes inspire, inform and involve people in the design of the world around them. We work across sectors and society to innovate, co-design and challenge. We are international and local, bringing the best people together to shape better places. We are, collaborative, creative, expert, independent, open and visionary.

We seek to achieve our objectives through:

- **Design Services** - Our independent Design Review service supports local authorities and developers to shape better places across the South West. This service brings together the best national expertise to shape the design of developments for public benefit, raising the bar for urban design, architecture, landscape, sustainability, and promoting a culture of good design in the region;
- **Placemaking** - We bring people together to co-design and vision great places. We collaborate with public and private sectors, engaging citizens with opportunities to influence the design of their place;
- **Public Engagement** - Our world class public programmes inspire and involve. From the Stirling Prize lectures to feisty debates, masterclasses and tours, we engage audiences with the built and natural environment;
- **Education** - We develop skills for the future. Our award-winning Shape My City programme accelerates the best diverse talent in partnership with schools, universities, local authorities and the private sector; and
- **Strategy** - From housing to the climate crisis, we address the challenges of today, working with local government to translate ambition into deliverable visions.

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## **2) ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE**

During the year our activities reached over 500,000 people.

### **Public Programme**

Audiences began to return to our programmes post-pandemic:

- 61,714 people visited our venue;
- 3,286 people experienced our public programmes; and
- 1,885 at Design West talks & debates, with 959 at our expanded partner programme (58 events).

### **Digital Audiences**

- 49,906 people visited our websites during the year;
- 20,666 people followed Design West on social media;
- 13,034 people subscribed to our newsletters; and
- >500,000 people experienced our work through broadcast, online and social media.

### **Design & Policy Review**

- 194 of the best cross-sector professionals served on our expert panels;
- We conducted 95 Design Reviews of developments right across the South West:
  - o 49 in the West of England (Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire & North Somerset);
  - o 46 in the Wider South West including Bournemouth, Cornwall, Devon, Exeter, Swindon and Wiltshire; and
- We advised on improvements to >28,000 homes; to 11,807 school places; to 484,400 m<sup>2</sup> commercial space, 6,070 care places, 7,006 student rooms, an energy centre, a fire station, 3 sporting facilities, a museum, a coastal defence, Bristol City Centre and 8 strategic sites.

### **Education, Young People & Volunteering**

- 35 diverse young people from 19 schools across Bristol people joined our Shape My City diverse talent accelerator programme. 70% BAME, 66% female; and
- We worked safely with 102 volunteers in total across our public programmes. The value of their contributions totalling £40,663.

## **PROGRAMME**

Design West is a place where public, politicians and professionals converge. As a world-leading centre for design and creative placemaking, we enable everyone to engage with the built environment and architecture around them. Throughout the year we showcase the world's most inspiring thinkers and practitioners from home and abroad through our public programme. This year 3,286 people took part in our public programmes and workshops, with 1,885 people booking tickets for our core events programme. Highlights included:

### **National & International Talks Programme**

- How can we build social, economic and environmental capital through the homes we build? In April we invited Simon Bayliss (HTA Design), Alex Marsh (University of Bristol) and Christiana Makariou (Goram Homes) to discuss how well-designed neighbourhoods can meet housing demand while also reducing longer-term pressures and costs for health and social care.

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- In Spring 2024, UK government introduced legislation to protect and enhance our natural world, with a requirement to deliver 10% 'Biodiversity Net Gain' as a condition of new development. In July, we partnered with Landscape Institute and the West of England Combined Authority to discuss the policy as part of 'Nature Rising' a sold out discussion featuring Martin Jones (Landscape Institute SW, BDP), Kirsty Barker (LDA Design), Gil Martin (Belmont Estate) and Sophie Simmons (WECA).
- Autumn brought Brutalism under the spotlight with a sold-out retrospective on architect Ernő Goldfinger (1902-87) in partnership with the 20th Century Society. Architectural Historian Alan Powers shared highlights from his recent book (co-written with the late Elaine Harwood), and the event was chaired by Erno's granddaughter Design West's Pippa Goldfinger.
- In October 'Unlocking Housing' addressed the crisis in housing supply with 1.3 million households on waiting lists, and 145,800 children living in temporary accommodation. As the new government pledged 1.5 million new homes, we asked Ben Derbyshire (Chair HTA Design, Past President RIBA, Commissioner Historic England) Samuel Hughes (Research Fellow University of Oxford, Head of Housing Centre for Policy Studies), Cllr Tom Renhard (Bristol City Council) and Louise Lote (Senior Land Manager, Sovereign Network Group) how the UK should - and could – deliver them.

*"With Unlocking Housing, Design West pulled off yet another of their characteristically well organised & well attended events. It was a real pleasure to address a packed, enthused audience & to learn from such a diverse line-up of other speakers."* **Ben Derbyshire, Chair HTA Design LLP, Commissioner, Historic England, Past President, RIBA**

- In November Design West collaborated with RIBA to programme the Stirling Prize Lectures, bringing architectural excellence to the public. Audiences in Bristol and Exeter heard the incredible story of megaproject The Elizabeth Line - 62 miles of track, 26 miles of new tunnels and 10 new, plus 31 upgraded stations. Lead Architect Neil McClements (**Grimshaw**), Engineer David Hunter (**AtkinsRéalis**) told the story of a decade's work, highlighting the design-led collaboration behind it. Exeter audiences continued to grow, and the Bristol event sold out. Thanks to **RIBA, Avalon Heritage & Planning** and **AtkinsRéalis** for sponsoring the Exeter stakeholder dinner and Bristol networking.
- December saw the launch of a new annual event 'Desert Island Designs'. Inspired by Desert Island Discs, we invited architect and broadcaster **Piers Taylor** to share nine life-shaping buildings in conversation with Elena Marco (former trustee & Pro Vice Chancellor, UWE) introduced by our Chair Nick Fairham.
- RIBA House of the Year took centre stage in January for another full house with Will Burgess of 31/34 architects.

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- Cities accommodate 56% of the world's population, generate 85% of GDP, but are responsible for 70% of CO2 emissions. In February we looked overseas for solutions to the shared challenges facing global cities. CEO Dr Rutherford (Chair One City Culture Board) curated an evening in partnership with One City (BCC), University of Bristol and international firm BDP, as we gathered city leaders for an enlightening glimpse into the future. Featuring Bjorn Bleumink (Studio Lead BDP Rotterdam), Prof. Palie Smart (Pro Vice Chancellor, UoB & One City Chair, Economy & Skills), Pete Gladwell (Director, Public Investment, L&G), Sado Jirde (CEO, Black South West Network).
- We finished the year with an event looking at designing for innovation, and the architecture of digital campuses. Cormac Farrelly (Director, AHMM), Apple Engineer Brian Eckersley (Eckersley O'Callaghan), Nick Sturge MBE (EngineShed Pioneer) and Prof. Daniel Neyland (UoB) took us through the design of Apple Park in Silicon Valley, UoB's new Digital Futures Institute & Cheltenham's proposed cyber-tech campus, Golden Valley.

*"The RIBA were delighted to collaborate with Design West to bring the Stirling Prize winners to speak in Exeter and Bristol. The talks and conversation reached an audience not normally well served and the whole event was well received and enjoyed. RIBA look forward to working with Design West in the future to help ensure that people in the South West are engaged and inspired by the very best architects and architecture".* **Simon Allford, Past RIBA President**

#### Participatory Debate - 6'O'Clock Sessions

Our 6'O'Clock Sessions (est. 2023) create a rare civic platform for informed debate, where citizens can gather to discuss the Built Environment we share. Participatory in nature, the programme brings public, politicians and professionals together around topical debates. Different opinions are welcome, heard and respectfully challenged. Guest contributors sit amongst the audience, and microphones are passed democratically around the room.

Built by our CEO in collaboration, the 6'O'Clock sessions are co-ordinated by a small team of volunteers, early career professionals and lecturers. In 2024/25 the programming team were Dr Rutherford, Keiron Stephens (Autor Architects), Josie Stephens (APG Architects), Fidel Miraz (UWE Bristol), Darby Georgeson (Design West) and Charlie Palmer (Oxford Brookes University).

- In May our 6'O'Clock Session 'Breaking Ground' debated construction waste. The industry generates 62% of the UK's waste, with 38% heading for landfill. Panellists from private and public sector shared emerging solutions to a significant, but rarely aired issue.
- In June, politicians, researchers and activists came together for feisty public debate 'Carmageddon' to reimagine city transport featuring Cllr Rob Bryher (BCC), Katie Moss (Bristol Cycling Campaign), John Parkin (Designing for Cycle Traffic), Chris Johnson (Keep Bristol Moving) and Gordan Richardson (Bristol Walking Alliance).
- September's 'Invisible Women' explored the gender design bias embedded in the built environment and what it would take to design differently, with guest voices including Veronica Barbaro (digital planner), Dr Natasha Watson (Buro Happold), Zoe Banks Gross (Sustrans) and Susannah Walker (Make Space for Girls).

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- October, looked at how land ownership has shaped our cities through time. Charlie Palmer (Chair), Abbie Stratford (Head of Regen BCC), Melissa Mean (We Can Make), Angelique Retif (Black South West Network) and Simon Hill (University of Bristol / Bristol Community Land Trust) led the discussions on 'Who Owns Bristol?'
- In December, Design West collaborated with Bristol City Council to host a panel on 'How Public Realm Shapes Experiences of Night'. Featuring Michele Acuto, Pro-Vice Chancellor Global Engagement (UoB) Alex Hearn, Director Economy of Place (BCC) Dr Ellie Cosgrave, Director (Publica, UCL) and Design West panel chair Yuli Cadney Toh.

#### Partner Programme

A new focus on partnership enabled Design West to extend our charitable impact through the venue, with a 60% increase in partner-led programme aligned to our aims by year end. From inspiring lifelong learners through a 20th Century Architecture course for U3A, to supporting the next generation via RTPI Young Planners CPD on design codes and workshops for visiting students from The Bartlett, our spaces brought together people at every stage of life. We also hosted lively public-facing conversations — including debates on public art — alongside cross-sector discussions on regeneration convened with Stride Treglown and Bristol City Council, creating a platform where practitioners, residents and decision-makers can learn from one another and shape better places together.

Design West remains the only place in the South West for inspiration, information, and debate about the design of our built environment, and the impact of design decisions on environment, economy, equality and health.

#### DESIGN & POLICY SERVICES

Housing is the most urgent social issue of our time. The new government has committed to building 1.5 million new homes in England over this Parliament, backed by planning reforms and an ambition to accelerate delivery. In the South West, the government's Local Housing Need figure has risen to 39,992 new homes per year across the region - underlining both the scale of demand and the importance of safeguarding design quality, sustainability and long-term value as schemes come forward.

In response to urgent social need, Design West is uniquely placed to help local authorities, public bodies and developers deliver high-quality, sustainable places at pace. We bring expert, interdisciplinary design and placemaking advice that protects quality under delivery pressure, strengthens outcomes for communities, and supports under-resourced authorities to secure long-term value from new development.

*"Bristol City Council have found the Design West panel invaluable as an independent, super professional resource. The expert panels are highly effective in helping applicants optimise their plans & bring forward proposals that make the most of Bristol's strengths & add to the city's credentials as a great place to live, work & play"* **Simone Wilding, Chief Planner, BCC**



## Design West

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Building on a long history of bringing people together to shape better places, Design West runs an independent design review service across the South West. We convene 190+ leading professionals spanning design and housing, climate resilience and net zero, engineering, transport and active travel, landscape, heritage, accessibility, inclusive growth and placemaking. Our expert panels provide independent, early-stage guidance on significant development proposals, helping teams resolve issues before they become costly or contentious. The design review process delivers clear, practical improvements for people and planet, while often adding value and de-risking projects.

Our design review and policy support services continued to be in high demand. In 2024/25 we worked across 15 local authorities, running a dedicated service in ten: Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, Cornwall, Dorset, Exeter, North Somerset, Plymouth, South Gloucestershire, Torbay and Wiltshire. In 2024/25 we conducted 95 Design Reviews, including 49 in the West of England (WEMCA), and 46 in the wider South West including Devon, Exeter, Swindon, Plymouth, Torbay and Dorset.

Design West panels advised on improvements to >28,000 homes; to 11,807 school places; to 484,400 m2 commercial space (including office, leisure and retail), 6,070 care places, an energy centre, a fire station, 3 sporting facilities, a museum, a coastal defence, Bristol City Centre and 8 strategic sites.

Our panel chairs for 2024/25 were as follows: Bristol: Cora Kwiatkowski (BSc AA Dipl.-Ing. Arch RIBA), Jane Fowles (BA(Hons) DipLA (Hons) MA UD CMLi), and Rob Gregory (MArch BA (Hons) RIBA ARB); Bath & North East Somerset: Colin Cobb (BA(Hons) Dip Arch ARB); South Gloucestershire: Prof. Alex Wright (BSc Dip Arch MDesS ARB FHEA); North Somerset: Juliet Bidgood (MA Dip Arch RIBA); Exeter: Richard Rose Casemore (BA (Arch) Dip Arch (Dist) FRSA RIBA) and Yuli Cadney-Toh (BA (Arch) Hon Dip Arch RIBA); Dorset: Warren Lever (BSc Hons PG Dip UD MRICS IHBC); Cornwall: Estelle Doughty and Frazer Osment (MPhil UD BA (Hons) LA CMLi); Torbay, Jackie Gillespie (BA Dip Arch RIBA); Wiltshire: Patrick Devlin (MSc AAS, Dip Arch, RIBA, ARB) and Stephen Bee (BA (Hons) MRes AoU MRTPI). We continue to refresh and diversify our panellists to bring new critical skills and experience, and to improve gender balance and diversity.

The quality and impact of our design review service is made possible by the expertise, care and commitment of our chairs and panellists. We record our sincere appreciation to our chairs and all our expert panellists for their ongoing contribution to Design West's charitable purpose and the consistent quality of their advice. We also acknowledge Pippa Goldfinger and Julie Tanner for their leadership and support alongside our CEO in overseeing delivery of the service.

*"The Design West Review Service is exceptional. It's a professional, astute and friendly operation, with a diverse and talented pool of individuals who are carefully selected for each Panel. The Panels make such a huge difference to the quality of schemes coming forward for development."* **Louise Morris, Head of Planning & Building Control, Bath & North East Somerset Council**

#### Design Review Highlights

Key schemes reviewed during the new Bath Road Development (>500 homes) in Bristol, major harbourside developments in Plymouth, town centre housing in Weston super-Mare, council-led housing in Cheltenham, the redevelopment of the Bath Press Site, a new leisure centre (Trowbridge) in Wiltshire and significant affordable housing in Cornwall.

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Notably the service has particularly supported developers to change their designs with practical interventions to create better, healthier places to live and work, through:

- Design & viability advice for creating economically sustainable places;
- Prioritizing active travel;
- Improving biodiversity & landscape;
- Improving the character & build quality of developments;
- Guidance on designing for health, well-being & the creation of new communities (e.g. student accommodation & residential-led developments);
- Supporting zero carbon strategies & sustainable transport; and
- Accessible & inclusive design.

*"Exeter City Council have found the Exeter Design Quality Group formed with Design West has helped drive up design standards in the city. The panellists convened by Design West combine local knowledge with national and international expertise. Working in collaboration with Exeter City Council, Design Reviews are pushing developers to deliver schemes that help the council deliver on its commitment to a Liveable Exeter."*

**Ian Collinson, Head of Regeneration & Housing, Exeter City Council**

*"Can you share my appreciation to the panel for their time & constructive advice. I have attended a few of these over the years & I have to say the conduct & approach taken by the panel was by far the best. I would encourage anyone to come & share their ideas with you."*

**Emma Geater, Associate Director, Crest Nicholson**

#### PLACEMAKING & NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

In 2024/25 we began discussions with MHCLG, WEMCA & ATLAS around the need to support dissemination of best practice & knowledge exchange between LPAs and the sector nationally.

At the end of the year, Design West CEO Dr Anna Rutherford, took up the chair role for the Design Network nationally. The Design Network supports local authorities, public bodies, politicians and developers to deliver great places for people prosperity and planet. Place-based and not-for-profit, the network is also the national delivery body for design review.

*"I wanted to thank Design West for a successful day in Bristol. We saw interesting high density brownfield developments & heard rare insights from the developers on their experiences and challenges. The presentation from the Bristol City Council Regen team was excellent & the conversations throughout the day were rich, extremely relevant & transferrable. The itinerary was great & really well thought through."* **Ian Collinson, Head of Regeneration & Housing, Exeter City Council**

*"Design West has built relationships across the sector enabling them to form panels which act as a 'critical friend' to local authorities ensuring emerging plans & strategies meet the ambitions and needs of the communities they serve."* **Sophie Camburn, Director, Arup**

## Design West

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#### EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Design West is a national leader in place-based education. We inspire young people of all ages to understand, shape and take pride in the built environment — and we open up clear pathways into careers across the sector. By intervening early and creating meaningful opportunities, we help remove barriers that would otherwise exclude many young people.

We believe the places of the future will only be as good as the people designing them — and that requires a workforce that better reflects the communities it serves.

This work is urgently needed. Today, just 1% of British architects are Black (ARB); women make up only 16.9% of the UK engineering and technology workforce; and just 5% of construction directors and senior managers are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. In the private planning sector, women make up 40% of the workforce, but only hold 17% of director-level roles (Women in Planning/RTPI).

#### Shape My City (15 – 18 yrs)

Shape My City provides high-quality careers development for young people aged 15–18, with a focus on girls and young people from ethnic minority backgrounds and lower socio-economic backgrounds. Through mentoring, sector insight and real-world experiences, the programme broadens horizons, builds confidence and skills, and opens up pathways that might otherwise be out of reach - supporting a more diverse and representative built environment workforce.

*“Design West’s innovative Shape My City Programme is an essential initiative that empowers young people from diverse backgrounds to enter the built environment sector. Inspired by Stephen Lawrence, the programme is designed to tackle the lack of sector diversity, to identify & nurture young talent, so that in future our city is shaped by professionals who better represent the communities they serve. Built in partnership with Bristol’s schools, communities, world-class universities & companies, the programme builds confidence, skills & networks for young Bristolians. Designed for maximum impact, the programme also gives young people a voice in live development happening across our city today & delivers two-way change in the companies that engage. Marvin Rees, Former Mayor of Bristol*

In summer 2024, the 2023/24 cohort graduated and, for the first time, we combined a university open evening with our end-of-year awards. The programme delivered strong outcomes, with graduates reporting increased confidence, greater recognition of their own skills, a stronger sense of agency, clearer understanding of how to reach their goals, and an improved ability to communicate with authority.

Some of the participants’ voices are captured below:

*“Being part of Shape My City makes me believe I can get into an architecture course at uni & pursue a career.”*

*“It was great to meet other people my age interested in architecture, & to learn about related professions.”*

*“The best thing about Shape My City was learning that design isn’t just buildings”*

*“I can present more confidently & am more confident in a career in engineering”*

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In autumn 2024 we welcomed a new cohort to Shape My City, expanding our outreach through school assemblies to increase both the number and diversity of applicants. In total, 79 young people applied and 35 students were selected from 21 schools. Of those accepted, 66% identify as from minoritised ethnic backgrounds, 66% are female, and 3% identify as non-binary. During the year, Shankari Raj returned from maternity leave and the programme leadership transitioned from Rosy Jones — an experienced architect and educator on secondment from AHMM. We are grateful to Rosy for her invaluable support and contribution to the programme.

*“Shape My City lifts the lid on a number of key disciplines that help shape the places we live, work and play. Seeing the various cohorts engage with, question, and understand these complex topics helps to show that they have a role to play in the future of our cities.”* **Jason Ramlugon, Senior Architect, AHMM**

Shape My City holds a **special commendation** from the **Thornton Education Trust Awards** (Dec 2022) with course leader Shankari Raj named **Individual of the Year** (Dec 2023) for her work on the programme.

We thank the organisations who signed up to take part in the academic year, namely AHMM, Arup, AWW, Buro Happold, Churchman Thornhill Finch, Dandara Living, FCB Studios, LDA Design, Purcell, Stantec and Vattenfall. We extend our thanks to all the volunteer professional inspirers, young people and university students who give their energy, enthusiasm and skills to the transformative programme.

*“The Shape My City programme is truly a guiding light in inspiring and empowering future generations, especially in providing invaluable opportunities to talented young individuals who might otherwise lack access, notably those from underrepresented socio-economic groups.”* **Victoria Thornton OBE, Thornton Education Trust**

### 3) FINANCIAL REVIEW

Following a record year, 2024/25 was a year of consolidation for the charity, as we piloted new roles and strengthened our structure to support future growth. We ended the year in a sound financial position, with almost £1m of income and a modest surplus, despite continued investment in the building. This performance reflects the resilience of the organisation in a challenging economic climate for charities.

Following successive years of growth, Design Services income fell by 8% to £511k, reflecting a slowdown in the development sector, and LPA staff turnover impacting continuity. Despite this, partners continue to report strong value from our support in driving up design quality across social, economic and environmental outcomes, and we saw a move to the delivery of more strategic reviews. Expenditure remained well controlled. Looking ahead we will strengthen strategic leadership capacity around consultancy and restructure to support more upstream placemaking and capacity-building work, alongside Design Review. Our Placemaking services bring politicians, professionals and communities together to co-design and vision better places and are secured primarily through competitive tenders, with some direct commissions linked to existing service level agreements.

## **Design West**

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Public programmes performed well in context of the cost-of-living crisis, with audiences continuing to return to live events. Box Office income for talks and debates has now returned to pre-pandemic levels, at £15.3k, with a further £16.2k raised from sponsorship and small grants (including Bristol City Council). We continued to successfully fund the Shape My City education programme, in partnership with leading top Built Environment firms, supplemented by project funding from the Royal Academy of Engineering. Overall sponsorship was our strongest to date at £39k.

Design West remains a lean and efficient charity. We deliver our public programme with a small staffing budget, made possible by a team working across multiple strands. Public programmes will always require some subsidy; in recent years, amid reduced public funding, we have prioritised growing earned income through services rather than investing heavily in risk-heavy bid writing. Surpluses from services help subsidise our programmes, and we are building a Designated Fund to leverage match funding to expand delivery from 2026. We will continue to maintain a balanced income mix and invest staff capacity where it delivers the greatest return and impact.

Core income (reported in the accounts as 'Raising Funds') from venue hire, rent and memberships stabilised at £111k. We trialled additional capacity to grow memberships and desk hire, but this did not deliver the impact hoped for, and we have reconfigured the approach for 2025/26, bringing hires into a new role linked to developing the venue programme to increase both revenue and impact.

Expenditure was well controlled. We mitigated rising costs by renegotiating improved contracts with key suppliers for electricity, insurance, IT and waste, alongside regular cost reviews and careful procurement to secure value for money across our work. The building project also completed within the planned £32k budget.

The trading arm (est. September 2022) operates the café-bar, and supports venue hires and public programme. 2024/25 marked a step forward: in its second full year of independent trading the business broke even for the first time and began loan repayments. Tighter management improved gross margins, and reduced waste. Moving forwards to further increase efficiency, we will reduce labour costs by bringing the hires function back into the parent charity; trustees will monitor this arrangement and associated risk.

Trustees also recognise that the trading arm delivers benefits not fully captured in the financials. The café-bar helps generate significant footfall, provides a welcoming base for our talks, debates, learning sessions, exhibitions and book events, and acts as a hub for professional and public exchange. The trading team also supports charitable delivery through logistics for design review sessions, space hires, and catering for partner programmes. Governance will keep this operating model under review.

Salary costs finished the year £36k below budget, reflecting strong cost control, while rising to £468k (including £177k in the Trading Arm) from £420k last year due to planned team growth and inflation. As many charities continue to experience recruitment and retention pressures in the post-pandemic, cost-of-living context, the Board approved a 3% pay award for all staff in 2024/25 to help maintain fair, competitive salaries. We also strengthened our employment offer by investing in health insurance and continuing our performance-related bonus scheme, supporting staff wellbeing and recognising the talent and commitment that underpins our work.

Overall Design West is pleased to report a consolidated in-year surplus of £9,850, enabling the trustees to invest in designated funds for the future, alongside building charity reserves commensurate with our size. Total charity funds are £1,548,608, and total group funds are £1,264,762.

## Design West

### Report of the trustees

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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Restricted reserves are £29,057 - this includes £6,913 left in the three-year Creating Excellence Fund for regional work, £20,000 held for a commission in Temple Quarter and small amounts for Placemaking commissions.

Unrestricted funds total £1,235,705, which includes designated funds including the leasehold property (£635,944), designated cash funds of £225,000 and a general fund of £374,761. The general fund contains our unrestricted net current assets of approximately £314,656 (up £26k from £288k in the previous year) and tangible fixed assets of £60,105.

The trustees have designated funds where future spend is anticipated. This includes £60k for Building Renovation as the roof, rear render and lift are reaching the end of their lifespan. £10k has been set aside for Education to safeguard Shape My City should sponsorship dip (economic downturn) and £80k for organisational development to strengthen senior capacity as the charity enters its next phase of growth. Trustees have also set aside £75k to enable us to develop in-venue programme and a Festival of Design, and to leverage further match funding over the next three years.

The trustees are pleased to report a responsible reserves position leading into 2025/26, and a strong mix of income streams now supporting our activities. With clear leadership and the support of new and existing clients for our impactful work, we are confident in our sustainable future.

*"Massive congratulations on a great day. I was most privileged to be part of it & enjoyed it all hugely. Your work is a total triumph, and the ability to continue the conversation in The Architect Bar after events is truly inspired. I go around the country all the time & I have to say, hand on heart, I do not think any place in the UK has a better platform for growth than you."* **Jackie Sadek, Urban Strategy**

### Risk Management

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the principal risks facing Design West and agreed mitigation plans to reduce our exposure. Risks are monitored through a live risk register, reviewed quarterly, with any significant changes escalated between meetings. The staff team regularly discusses risk and contributes updates to the register.

Key risks include financial pressures on local government, and the impact of recession on the built environment sector and demand for Design Review. We mitigate this by maintaining a high-quality, good-value service; strengthening relationships and networks; and increasing our national engagement through the Design Network. Our geographically broad client base, diversified income streams and healthy reserves also help us manage short- to medium-term volatility.

The trading arm remains a focus given tight hospitality margins. The business has an agreed repayment plan and began loan repayments in 2024/25, with associated risks overseen by the CIO trustees through the risk register.

Fraud and digital risks continue to rise. During 2024/25 we strengthened processes and staff training, and while scam attempts were received, all were identified and averted. The charity maintains appropriate insurance, reviewed by trustees, and appointed an HR provider during the year to strengthen employment risk management.

## **Design West**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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As the charity grows, trustees recognise the importance of operational resilience. We have invested in staff benefits, training and team development to retain talent, and plan to recruit additional senior capacity to support the next phase of growth, underpinned by a designated fund for organisational development.

Design West also maintains strong financial controls. Budgets and cashflow are monitored throughout the year to identify and address risk early, and overheads are reviewed annually to ensure value for money. We continually seek to maximise income and improve efficiency, without compromising public benefit or the quality of our offer.

#### **Reserves Policy**

Design West's reserves form part of the organisation's strategic planning process informing business planning, budget and risk management, ensuring that the organisation remains sustainable, has the capacity to manage unforeseen financial circumstances and is able to invest in its future.

The trustees have reviewed the reserves policy to a risk-based assessment which takes into account our income certainties and sources of income, compared to our fixed and committed expenditure. Following this review, the Trustees agree that in order to weather variations in cash flow our free reserves should reach six months expenditure (£330,000) as a general reserve. In addition to this, the board have assigned designated reserves funds. At the end of March 2025 the board are pleased to report significant progress against our business plan. Unrestricted free cash reserves increased by £26k to £314,656 in the general unrestricted reserve fund (£375k), and £225,000 in the designated funds described above. The trustees will continue to balance holding strong reserves for the organisation, with the ongoing business risks, including inflation, talent retention, recession, and the cost-of-living crisis.

The trustees believe that the current business plans make the business a going concern and are confident of a mixed income stream over the next 3 years. The organisation has a 125-year lease asset that will be used to generate increased revenue and has demonstrated valuable service provision increasing our earned income through our Design Review and Placemaking Services.

## **4) STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT**

### **Constitution & Organizational Structure**

Design West is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). Our constitution is the charity's primary governing document.

The charity is led by a Board of Trustees who are non-executive, unpaid, and meet quarterly. Over the past five years, CEO Dr Anna Rutherford has worked effectively with the Chair and Board to deliver sustainable strategic change, strengthening our structure, finances, impact model, and organisational policies and processes.

In 2022/23 the organisation converted from a charity regulated by Companies House to a CIO regulated by the Charity Commission, and changed its legal name from Bristol Centre for the Advancement of Architecture to Design West.

In September 2022 the charity set up an operational trading arm to operate the café bar, manage venue hires, and support public programme delivery. Design West Trading is registered with Companies House and overseen by a board of Directors that includes hospitality expertise, a trustee from the parent charity and the charity's CEO. Under a Deed of Gift, all profits are transferred to the parent charity. Day-to-day operations are led by Bar & Venue Manager Malcolm Howard.

## **Design West**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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Our Chair of Trustees, Nick Fairham (Chief Executive of BDP), brings significant sector and business leadership and is well placed to guide the Board as we enter our next phase of growth.

#### **Future Development**

Building on the successful changes to the charity's structure and name, over the next 18 months the Trustees will work with the Chair and staff team to refine our business plan and structure the organisation for growth. The Board intends to refresh its membership in line with the evolving plan and update the charity's objects (drafted in 1984) to better reflect current needs.

#### **Board of Trustees**

The Board meets quarterly and holds overall responsibility for:

- Ensuring the charity's aim and objectives are achieved;
- Providing strategic oversight and support to the CEO and staff team;
- Approving the annual budget and ensuring strong financial governance;
- Reviewing and maintaining key policies (including safeguarding, equality and diversity, finance, health and safety, and volunteers); and
- Building landlord matters.

The CEO and the Chair of Trustees meet monthly, to review progress, and drive strategic development. Trustee working groups are convened as required.

The trustees regularly review the Board's composition to ensure it has the skills, experience and diversity necessary for effective governance and the charity's long-term sustainability. Trustee roles are advertised through relevant networks, with prospective trustees completing an interview and induction process.

#### **Senior Team**

Trustees delegate day-to-day management to the CEO, supported by the Senior Leadership Team. The Senior Leadership Team also implement and maintain the charity's policies and procedures. During the year, the Senior Leadership Team comprised:

Dr Anna Rutherford (CEO)

Pippa Goldfinger (Head of Design)

Julie Tanner (Head of Design & Planning Services)

All staff roles are assessed and paid in relation to responsibility, skills and capabilities required. Roles are regularly benchmarked.

#### **Trading Arm**

The Board of the Trading Arm meet quarterly and have responsibility for:

- Approving the business plan and annual budget, and ensuring strong financial governance & resilience; and
- Providing strategic support to the Bar Manager and staff team.

#### **Networks & Memberships**

Design West is a key member of the Design Network. The Director is a member of several leadership groups in Bristol. The charity is also a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.



## **Design West**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **Public Benefit**

Design West has complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the charity commission.

#### **Statement of responsibilities of the trustees**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charity for the year. In preparing those 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 accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice 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.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which 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 constitution. The trustees 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.

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

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

#### **Independent examiners**

Godfrey Wilson Limited were appointed as independent examiners to the charity during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 28 January 2026 and signed on their behalf by



Nicholas Fairham, Chair

## **Independent examiner's report**

### **To the trustees of**

#### **Design West**

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the consolidated accounts of the Group comprising Design West ('the Charity') and its subsidiary undertakings for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 19 to 38.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the consolidated accounts of the Group in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and you have chosen to prepare consolidated accounts for the Group. You are satisfied that the accounts of both the Charity and the Group are not required by law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the consolidated accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the consolidated accounts present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

Since the Group's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides bookkeeping services to the Group. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2024, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company and the Group as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act and, with respect to the subsidiaries, as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

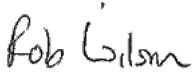
**Independent examiner's report**

**To the trustees of**

**Design West**

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I 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.



Date: 28 January 2026

**Robert Wilson FCA**

**Member of the ICAEW**

**Godfrey Wilson Limited**

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

## Design West

### Consolidated statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	-	1,313	<b>1,313</b>	2,633
Charitable activities	4				
Design services		-	510,653	<b>510,653</b>	556,049
Placemaking		-	-	-	32,501
Public programme		18,404	67,675	<b>86,079</b>	80,315
Other trading activities	5	-	355,704	<b>355,704</b>	386,543
Investments		-	44,069	<b>44,069</b>	48,661
<b>Total income</b>		<u>18,404</u>	<u>979,414</u>	<u><b>997,818</b></u>	<u>1,106,702</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		-	486,357	<b>486,357</b>	474,583
Charitable activities					
Design services		-	414,841	<b>414,841</b>	435,699
Placemaking		2,543	2,740	<b>5,283</b>	31,915
Public programme		16,616	64,871	<b>81,487</b>	96,999
<b>Total expenditure</b>	7	<u>19,159</u>	<u>968,809</u>	<u><b>987,968</b></u>	<u>1,039,196</u>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds</b>		(755)	10,605	<b>9,850</b>	67,506
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>29,812</u>	<u>1,225,100</u>	<u><b>1,254,912</b></u>	<u>1,187,406</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u><u>29,057</u></u>	<u><u>1,235,705</u></u>	<u><u><b>1,264,762</b></u></u>	<u><u>1,254,912</u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 20 to the accounts.

## Design West

### Consolidated and parent balance sheets

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	The group 2025 £	The group 2024 £	The charity 2025 £	The charity 2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11	<b>146,049</b>	166,719	<b>103,078</b>	122,685
Investments	12	<b>550,000</b>	550,000	<b>825,001</b>	825,001
		<b>696,049</b>	716,719	<b>928,079</b>	947,686
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	15	<b>5,081</b>	7,585	-	-
Debtors	16	<b>99,249</b>	127,250	<b>143,790</b>	174,018
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>635,680</b>	626,292	<b>624,902</b>	622,413
		<b>740,010</b>	761,127	<b>768,692</b>	796,431
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	17	<b>(171,297)</b>	(222,934)	<b>(148,163)</b>	(207,703)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>568,713</b>	538,193	<b>620,529</b>	588,728
<b>Net assets</b>	19	<b>1,264,762</b>	1,254,912	<b>1,548,608</b>	1,536,414
<b>Funds</b>	20				
Restricted funds		<b>29,057</b>	29,812	<b>29,057</b>	29,812
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds		<b>860,944</b>	858,069	<b>1,092,972</b>	1,089,033
General funds		<b>374,761</b>	367,031	<b>426,579</b>	417,569
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<b>1,264,762</b>	1,254,912	<b>1,548,608</b>	1,536,414

Approved by the trustees on 28 January 2026 and signed on their behalf by



Nicholas Fairham, Chair

**Design West****Consolidated statement of cash flows****For the year ended 31 March 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash used in operating activities:</b>		
Net movement in funds	<b>9,850</b>	67,506
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	<b>32,755</b>	42,892
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	<b>(44,069)</b>	(48,661)
(Increase) / decrease in stock	<b>2,504</b>	(214)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	<b>28,001</b>	(8,413)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	<b>(51,637)</b>	15,312
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities</b>	<b><u>(22,596)</u></b>	<u>68,422</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	<b>44,069</b>	48,661
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(12,085)</b>	(8,400)
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b><u>31,984</u></b>	<u>40,261</u>
<b>Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>9,388</b>	108,683
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b><u>626,292</u></b>	<u>517,609</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b><u><u>635,680</u></u></b>	<u><u>626,292</u></u>

The charity has not provided an analysis of changes in net debt as it does not have any long term financing arrangements.

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 1. Accounting policies

##### a) General information and basis of preparation

Design West is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Architecture Centre, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4QA.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Design West meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

##### b) Group accounts

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly-owned (controlled) subsidiary on a line by line basis. Transactions and balances between the charity and its subsidiary have been eliminated from the consolidated financial statements. Balances between the two entities are disclosed in the notes of the charity's balance sheet. A separate Statement of Financial Activities for the charity is not presented as the charity has taken advantage of the provisions of section 24 of the SORP.

##### c) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### d) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of provision of design services is deferred until criteria for income recognition are met.

##### e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particularly areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

##### g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once 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.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

##### h) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based on the proportion of staff time as follows:

	2025	2024
Raising funds	54%	52%
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Design services	37%	33%
Placemaking	1%	3%
Public programme	8%	12%

##### i) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Leasehold property	125 years
Office equipment	3 years
<i>Fixtures and fittings</i>	
Bespoke fixtures	5 years
Other fixtures and fittings	3 years
Leasehold improvements	10 years

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000.

##### j) Investment in subsidiaries

The charity has one wholly owned subsidiary, Design West Trading Ltd, (registered company number 14049103). The subsidiary is used for non-primary purpose trading activities. The subsidiary undertaking is valued at cost less any cumulative impairment losses in the charity's accounts.



## **Design West**

### **Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **1. Accounting policies (continued)**

##### **k) Investment property**

Investment property is property (land or a building, or both) held to earn rentals.

Investment property is initially measured at cost, including transaction costs. Investment property is subsequently measured at fair value at the reporting date. This method of valuation applies to all the charity's investment properties.

Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of investment property are included in net profit or loss on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities for the period in which they arise.

##### **l) Stock**

Stock is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Donated items of stock are recognised at fair value which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay for the items on the open market.

##### **m) Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

##### **n) Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

##### **o) Creditors**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where there is 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 after allowing for any trade discounts due.

##### **p) Financial instruments**

The trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **q) Pension costs**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

##### **r) Accounting estimates and key judgements**

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

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### r) Accounting estimates and key judgements (continued)

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

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are: depreciation (see accounting policy 1i), the split of the property between tangible fixed assets and investments (see note 12) and the valuation of investment property see (accounting policy 1k).

#### 2. Prior period comparatives: statement of financial activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	-	2,633	2,633
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Design services	-	556,049	556,049
Placemaking	1,806	30,695	32,501
Public programme	9,920	70,395	80,315
Other trading activities	-	386,543	386,543
Investments	-	48,661	48,661
<b>Total income</b>	<b>11,726</b>	<b>1,094,976</b>	<b>1,106,702</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	-	474,583	474,583
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Design services	-	435,699	435,699
Placemaking	12,620	19,295	31,915
Public programme	11,708	85,291	96,999
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>24,328</b>	<b>1,014,868</b>	<b>1,039,196</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds</b>	<b>(12,602)</b>	<b>80,108</b>	<b>67,506</b>

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £
Donations	-	1,313	1,313
<b>Total income from donations and legacies</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>1,313</b>

Prior period comparative:	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Donations	-	2,633	2,633
<b>Total income from donations and legacies</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,633</b>	<b>2,633</b>

#### 4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £
<i>Design services</i>			
Service provision	-	510,653	510,653
<i>Public programme</i>			
Grants	18,404	-	18,404
Sponsorship	-	38,678	38,678
Memberships	-	13,732	13,732
Events	-	15,265	15,265
	18,404	67,675	86,079
<b>Total income from charitable activities</b>	<b>18,404</b>	<b>578,328</b>	<b>596,732</b>

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 4. Income from charitable activities (continued)

Prior period comparative:

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
<i>Design services</i>			
Service provision	-	556,049	556,049
<i>Placemaking</i>			
Grants	1,806	-	1,806
Service provision	-	30,695	30,695
	1,806	30,695	32,501
<i>Public programme</i>			
Grants	9,920	-	9,920
Service provision	-	400	400
Sponsorship	-	34,512	34,512
Memberships	-	18,824	18,824
Events	-	16,659	16,659
	9,920	70,395	80,315
<b>Total income from charitable activities</b>	<b>11,726</b>	<b>657,139</b>	<b>668,865</b>

#### 5. Income from other trading activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Café/bar sales	313,939	330,435
Space hire	26,457	35,383
Service provision	15,308	20,725
<b>Total income from other trading activities</b>	<b>355,704</b>	<b>386,543</b>

All income from other trading activities in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

#### 6. Government grants

The charity receives government grants, defined as funding from Bristol City Council to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2025 was £11,790 (2024: £1,806). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in 2024/25.

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 7. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Design services £	Placemaking £	Public programme £	Support and governance costs £	2025 Total £
Staff costs (note 9)	220,300	149,484	3,284	34,310	60,288	<b>467,666</b>
Recruitment and training	-	-	-	85	12,010	<b>12,095</b>
Cost of goods sold	125,408	-	-	-	-	<b>125,408</b>
Production	1,658	187,573	-	14,749	6,870	<b>210,850</b>
Consumables	9,708	-	-	-	-	<b>9,708</b>
Marketing and communications	1,736	3,146	360	15,218	8,936	<b>29,396</b>
Building costs	9,812	-	-	-	42,877	<b>52,689</b>
Office and admin	1,383	-	-	-	21,399	<b>22,782</b>
Finance and legal	6,398	-	-	-	13,816	<b>20,214</b>
Organisational development	-	29	-	-	4,376	<b>4,405</b>
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	32,755	<b>32,755</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>376,403</b>	<b>340,232</b>	<b>3,644</b>	<b>64,362</b>	<b>203,327</b>	<b>987,968</b>
Allocation of support and governance costs	109,954	74,609	1,639	17,125	(203,327)	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>486,357</b>	<b>414,841</b>	<b>5,283</b>	<b>81,487</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>987,968</b>

Total governance costs were £10,989 (2024: £14,189)

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 7. Total expenditure (continued)

##### Prior period comparative

	Raising funds £	Design services £	Placemaking £	Public programme £	Support and governance costs £	2024 Total £
Staff costs (note 9)	192,645	121,590	10,031	43,368	52,162	419,796
Recruitment and training	-	-	-	215	5,138	5,353
Cost of goods sold	148,500	-	-	-	-	148,500
Production	2,010	250,634	16,312	15,426	1,351	285,733
Consumables	10,298	-	-	-	-	10,298
Marketing and communications	2,562	862	420	15,719	10,486	30,049
Building costs	4,131	-	-	-	32,153	36,284
Office and admin	1,931	-	-	-	22,598	24,529
Finance and legal	13,574	-	-	-	18,264	31,838
Organisational development	-	171	-	-	3,753	3,924
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	42,892	42,892
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>375,651</b>	<b>373,257</b>	<b>26,763</b>	<b>74,728</b>	<b>188,797</b>	<b>1,039,196</b>
Allocation of support and governance costs	98,932	62,442	5,152	22,271	(188,797)	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>474,583</b>	<b>435,699</b>	<b>31,915</b>	<b>96,999</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,039,196</b>

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 8. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	32,755	42,892
Trustees' remuneration	Nil	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	Nil	225
Auditors' / Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Statutory audit	-	11,350
▪ Independent examination	4,920	-
▪ Other services	2,214	1,912

In common with other charities of our size and nature we use our independent examiners to assist with the preparation of the financial statements and to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities. Our independent examiners also provided occasional bookkeeping support to the charity during the year.

#### 9. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	428,157	391,266
Social security costs	31,347	20,118
Pension costs	8,162	8,412
	467,666	419,796
Freelance staff	94,672	135,247
	562,338	555,043

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the current or prior year.

The key management personnel of the group comprise the Trustees, CEO, Head of Design, Venue Operations Manager and Communications Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £167,689 (2024: £134,382).

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Average number of employees (full-time equivalent)	19	21

#### 10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. The subsidiary company distributes any profits to the charity and therefore no corporation tax is payable.

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 11. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Leasehold property £	Office equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Leasehold improvements £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 April 2024	265,566	28,495	113,002	46,039	<b>453,102</b>
Additions in year	-	2,165	6,869	3,051	<b>12,085</b>
Disposals	-	(2,210)	(1,204)	-	<b>(3,414)</b>
At 31 March 2025	<u>265,566</u>	<u>28,450</u>	<u>118,667</u>	<u>49,090</u>	<b>461,773</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 April 2024	177,497	19,574	78,247	11,065	<b>286,383</b>
Charge for the year	2,125	5,510	20,389	4,731	<b>32,755</b>
Disposals	-	(2,210)	(1,204)	-	<b>(3,414)</b>
At 31 March 2025	<u>179,622</u>	<u>22,874</u>	<u>97,432</u>	<u>15,796</u>	<b>315,724</b>
<b>Net book value</b>					
<b>At 31 March 2025</b>	<u><b>85,944</b></u>	<u><b>5,576</b></u>	<u><b>21,235</b></u>	<u><b>33,294</b></u>	<b>146,049</b>
At 31 March 2024	<u>88,069</u>	<u>8,921</u>	<u>34,755</u>	<u>34,974</u>	166,719
<b>Charity</b>					
	Leasehold property £	Office equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Leasehold improvements £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 April 2024	132,783	28,495	113,002	46,039	<b>320,319</b>
Additions in year	-	2,165	6,869	3,051	<b>12,085</b>
Disposals	-	(2,210)	(1,204)	-	<b>(3,414)</b>
At 31 March 2025	<u>132,783</u>	<u>28,450</u>	<u>118,667</u>	<u>49,090</u>	<b>328,990</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 April 2024	88,748	19,574	78,247	11,065	<b>197,634</b>
Charge for the year	1,062	5,510	20,389	4,731	<b>31,692</b>
Disposals	-	(2,210)	(1,204)	-	<b>(3,414)</b>
At 31 March 2025	<u>89,810</u>	<u>22,874</u>	<u>97,432</u>	<u>15,796</u>	<b>225,912</b>
<b>Net book value</b>					
<b>At 31 March 2025</b>	<u><b>42,973</b></u>	<u><b>5,576</b></u>	<u><b>21,235</b></u>	<u><b>33,294</b></u>	<b>103,078</b>
At 31 March 2024	<u>44,035</u>	<u>8,921</u>	<u>34,755</u>	<u>34,974</u>	122,685



## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 12. Investments

	The group		The charity	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Investment property	<b>550,000</b>	550,000	<b>825,000</b>	825,000
Design West Trading Limited	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>At 31 March</b>	<b><u>550,000</u></b>	<b><u>550,000</u></b>	<b><u>825,001</u></b>	<b><u>825,001</u></b>

Investment property:	The group		The charity	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Market value at the start of the year	<b>550,000</b>	550,000	<b>825,000</b>	825,000
Revaluation gains / (losses)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Market value at 31 March</b>	<b><u>550,000</u></b>	<b><u>550,000</u></b>	<b><u>825,000</u></b>	<b><u>825,000</u></b>

#### Investments in subsidiaries

The investment represents 100% of the ordinary share capital of Design West Trading Limited (company number 14049103), whose principal activity is to carry out trading activities in support of the charity. A summary of the financial results and position of trading subsidiary is given in note 13.

#### Investment property

16 Narrow Quay, Bristol was transferred to the charity on 24 June 1997. The property was held as a tangible fixed asset and depreciated over the 125 year leasehold term. At this time, the building was used fully by Design West for operational use. In the year ended 31 March 2017 the building became a mixed use investment property. 50% of the building is recognised as investment property and held at fair value, with the remaining 50% held as a tangible fixed asset and depreciated over the 125 year leasehold term. On consolidation, the portion of the building occupied by Design West Trading Limited is reclassified as a tangible fixed asset, resulting in 25% of the building being recognised as investment property, and the remaining 75% held as a tangible fixed asset.

An external valuation of the residential properties was carried out by Alder King LLP, chartered surveyors, in November 2023 and a fair value of £1,100,000 was reported. Unless advised to the contrary, the valuers assume that no work would be required to any building by a prospective owner or occupier to comply with regulatory requirements. Prior year valuations have been provided by the trustees.

The trustees are satisfied that the valuation provided by Alder King Property Consultants was carried out by experts with sufficient relevant qualifications, and recent experience in the location and class of the property being valued, and that this continues to be an appropriate valuation as at the year end date.

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 13. Subsidiary undertakings

##### *Design West Trading Limited*

The charity owns the whole of the issued share capital (1 ordinary £1 share) of Design West Trading Limited, a company newly registered in England and Wales on 14 April 2022. The subsidiary is used for non-primary purpose trading activities. All activities have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the statement of financial activities. Available profits are donated to the charity. A summary of the results of the subsidiary is shown below:

	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover	373,357	368,546
Cost of sales	<u>(136,774)</u>	<u>(160,808)</u>
Gross profit	236,583	207,738
Administrative expenses	<u>(237,869)</u>	<u>(228,551)</u>
Loss on ordinary activities	(1,286)	(20,813)
Corporation tax	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Profit for financial year	<u><u>(1,286)</u></u>	<u><u>(20,813)</u></u>
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
	2025 £	2024 £
Assets	16,598	13,462
Liabilities	<u>(68,416)</u>	<u>(63,994)</u>
Funds	<u><u>(51,818)</u></u>	<u><u>(50,532)</u></u>

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 14. Parent charity

The parent charity's gross income and the results for the year are disclosed as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross income	701,653	791,306
Results for the year	<u>12,199</u>	<u>89,379</u>

#### 15. Stock

	The group		The charity	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Café and bar stock	<u>5,081</u>	<u>7,585</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 16. Debtors

	The group		The charity	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	93,379	122,737	92,638	120,743
Prepayments and accrued income	5,870	4,513	5,870	4,513
Amounts due from group undertakings	-	-	45,282	48,762
	<u>99,249</u>	<u>127,250</u>	<u>143,790</u>	<u>174,018</u>

#### 17. Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year

	The group		The charity	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	40,434	51,783	38,548	51,323
Accruals	25,946	31,799	22,977	28,549
Deferred income (see note 18)	56,595	97,190	56,595	97,190
Other taxation and social security	8,314	6,734	6,181	5,261
VAT	27,263	33,707	11,533	23,904
Other creditors	12,745	1,721	12,329	1,476
	<u>171,297</u>	<u>222,934</u>	<u>148,163</u>	<u>207,703</u>

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 18. Deferred income

	The group		The charity	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
At 1 April	<b>97,190</b>	96,767	<b>97,190</b>	96,767
Deferred during the year	<b>56,595</b>	97,190	<b>56,595</b>	97,190
Released during the year	<b>(97,190)</b>	(96,767)	<b>(97,190)</b>	(96,767)
At 31 March	<b>56,595</b>	97,190	<b>56,595</b>	97,190

Deferred income relates to services paid for in advance of provision.

#### 19. Analysis of group net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Designated funds	General funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	85,944	60,105	<b>146,049</b>
Investments	-	550,000	-	<b>550,000</b>
Current assets	29,057	225,000	485,953	<b>740,010</b>
Current liabilities	-	-	(171,297)	<b>(171,297)</b>
<b>Net assets at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>29,057</b>	<b>860,944</b>	<b>374,761</b>	<b>1,264,762</b>
<b>Prior year comparative</b>				
	Restricted funds	Designated funds	General funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	88,069	78,650	166,719
Investments	-	550,000	-	550,000
Current assets	29,812	220,000	511,315	761,127
Current liabilities	-	-	(222,934)	(222,934)
<b>Net assets at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>29,812</b>	<b>858,069</b>	<b>367,031</b>	<b>1,254,912</b>

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 20. Movements in group funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2025 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
BCC CIL	2,144	-	-	-	<b>2,144</b>
Temple Commission	20,000	-	-	-	<b>20,000</b>
Creating Excellence Regional Fund	9,456	-	(2,543)	-	<b>6,913</b>
Royal Academy of Engineering	(1,788)	6,614	(4,826)	-	-
BCC Imagination Funding	-	11,790	(11,790)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>29,812</b>	<b>18,404</b>	<b>(19,159)</b>	-	<b>29,057</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building renovation	60,000	-	-	-	<b>60,000</b>
Property	638,069	-	(2,125)	-	<b>635,944</b>
Education	10,000	-	-	-	<b>10,000</b>
Programme	70,000	-	-	5,000	<b>75,000</b>
Organisational development	80,000	-	-	-	<b>80,000</b>
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<b>858,069</b>	-	<b>(2,125)</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>860,944</b>
General funds	367,031	979,414	(966,684)	(5,000)	<b>374,761</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,225,100</b>	<b>979,414</b>	<b>(968,809)</b>	-	<b>1,235,705</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>1,254,912</b>	<b>997,818</b>	<b>(987,968)</b>	-	<b>1,264,762</b>

#### Purposes of restricted funds

##### BCC CIL

Bristol City Council, Community Infrastructure Levy fund towards The Green Way, a series of infrastructure, cycling & tree planting improvements across three sites (St Pauls Learning Centre, St Pauls Adventure Playground, Halston Drive Community Room) & a 'green' route through St Pauls.

##### Temple Commission

Funding for public art commission in the area of Redcliffe & Temple (Cubex) to be deployed when conservation works are finished.

##### Creating Excellence Regional Fund

Funding from Creating Excellence to develop regional working, promoting design & placemaking into the South West regions.

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 20. Movements in group funds (continued)

##### Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Royal Academy of Engineering

Ingenious Funding for 'Engineering Climate Superheros'. Engagement project aimed at highlighting the important role of engineers in tackling the climate emergency. Plus inspiring & informing a future generation of diverse engineers.

BCC Imagination Funding

Cultural Investment Programme Funding towards our public programmes and Education programme (Shape My City).

##### Purpose of designated funds

Building renovation

Buildings require continual investment and maintenance. Following the capital transformation (21/22) of the ground and first floor, the trustees have created a building fund to secure future capital work and urgent repairs. This will cover critical future work including repairing exterior render, roof renewal, and updated energy regulations.

Property

The property fund represents the net book value of the investment and leasehold property held at the year end.

Education

The Trustees have designated a fund towards the development and safeguarding of our education work with diverse young people. We anticipate that this work may be impacted by recession.

Programme

Our public programmes, including large tour-based programmes like Bristol Open Doors have been reliant on a dwindling pool of public subsidy. In light of austerity & the current funding climate, the trustees have put aside a fund for developing programme to cover public tours, awards and a conference (2025 – 2027).

Organisational development

The charity has been through a period of rapid growth. Over the past year, the trustees have tested new structural models to build capacity & enable future growth. In 2025-2026 we anticipate creating a senior business operations role in the organisation. This investment will be loss-making in the short term, thus a fund is set aside for 2025-2027.

##### Transfers

The transfer to designated funds represents an amount the trustees deem reasonable to allocate for a specific project.

## Design West

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 20. Movements in group funds (continued)

##### Prior year comparative

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
BCC Lockleaze	6,064	1,806	(7,870)	-	-
BCC CIL	2,144	-	-	-	2,144
Temple Commission	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Creating Excellence Regional Fund	14,206	-	(4,750)	-	9,456
Royal Academy of Engineering	-	9,920	(11,708)	-	(1,788)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>42,414</b>	<b>11,726</b>	<b>(24,328)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,812</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building renovation	40,000	-	-	20,000	60,000
Property	640,193	-	(2,124)	-	638,069
Education	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Programme	50,000	-	-	20,000	70,000
Organisational development	60,000	-	-	20,000	80,000
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<i>800,193</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(2,124)</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>858,069</i>
General funds	344,799	1,094,976	(1,012,744)	(60,000)	367,031
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,144,992</b>	<b>1,094,976</b>	<b>(1,014,868)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,225,100</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>1,187,406</b>	<b>1,106,702</b>	<b>(1,039,196)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,254,912</b>

#### 21. Related party transactions

N Fairham, chair of trustees, is the Chief Executive of Building Design Partnership (BDP). During the year, BDP was a member of Design West and sponsored Shape My City and The Good City Talk, totalling £6,200 (plus VAT). Liaison on delivery was managed with the BDP Bristol team, independent of the Chair's role. In the prior period, the charity received £235 from BDP for space hire. £2,400 was outstanding at year end (2024: £3,480).

During the year, C Kwiatkowski, trustee, was paid for design services by the charity totalling £2,350 (2024: £2,009). No amounts were outstanding at year end.

##### Design West Trading Limited (wholly owned subsidiary of Design West)

Design West Trading Limited was incorporated on 14 April 2022 and is a wholly owed subsidiary of Design West. At 31 March 2025, Design West Trading Limited owed Design West £45,282 (2024: £48,762).