

Down District Accessible Transport

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Down District Accessible Transport present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 March 2023.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Financial Results

At the end of the financial year the company has assets of £263,946 (2022 - £407,965) and liabilities of £92,331 (2022 - £166,058). The net assets of the company have decreased by £(70,292).

Trustees

The current trustees are as set out on page 3

Wesley David Burnside
Francis Eugene Casement
David Lawrence Cole-Baker
Helen Coulter
Nicholas John McCrickard
William Samuel Alexander Megraw
Richard Clive Wallington

The secretary who served during the financial year was:

Mrs. Helen Coulter

Governing Document

Down District Accessible Transport is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company is under the control of the directors who are, therefore, acting trustees for the charity.

Financial Review / Reserves Policy

The charity has had a satisfactory year from a financial perspective despite all the uncertainty surrounding grant income in the voluntary sector. The charity received income of £425,546 in the year which was prudently managed.

The trustees continue to monitor and update their reserves policy in order to establish the level of reserves that are required to continue to provide support and investment into all the projects for the next year. The charity aims to hold a separate designated reserve fund of £216,000, equivalent to six months running costs.

The trustees feel that these levels of reserves are essential to enable the Charity to continue to provide its activities for the foreseeable future. The Reserves Policy is an integral part of the charity's planning, budget and forecasts.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Down District Accessible Transport subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2006
 - The Charities SORP (FRS 102)
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Achievements throughout the year

In 2022/2023 DDAT delivered the following DFI supported activities:

- Dial-a-lift door-to-door transport service for individuals living in rural areas
- The Assisted Rural Travel Scheme

Dial-a-lift is a door-to-door transport service for individuals living in rural areas who are unable to or find it difficult to use public transport. Dial a lift can be used to access local services such as: GP / clinic appointments/ Dentist or Opticians, Shopping, Visiting family and friends and many other recreational activities.

During 2022/2023 we delivered 17,180 individual passenger trips this was 14% increase from 2021/22. Our individual membership is 624 members. 61% of the individual trips were made by people with a disability.

Group Hire/Self Drive:

DDAT also provide affordable and accessible transport for our 58 member groups. In 2022/2023 we completed 1604 group hire bookings which resulted in 9309 group hire trips. 3% of these trips were provided by volunteer Drivers. Our group membership has been most impacted by the detrimental impact that driver shortages is having across the sector, and the loss of casual drivers who were able to cover evening and weekend Group hire bookings.



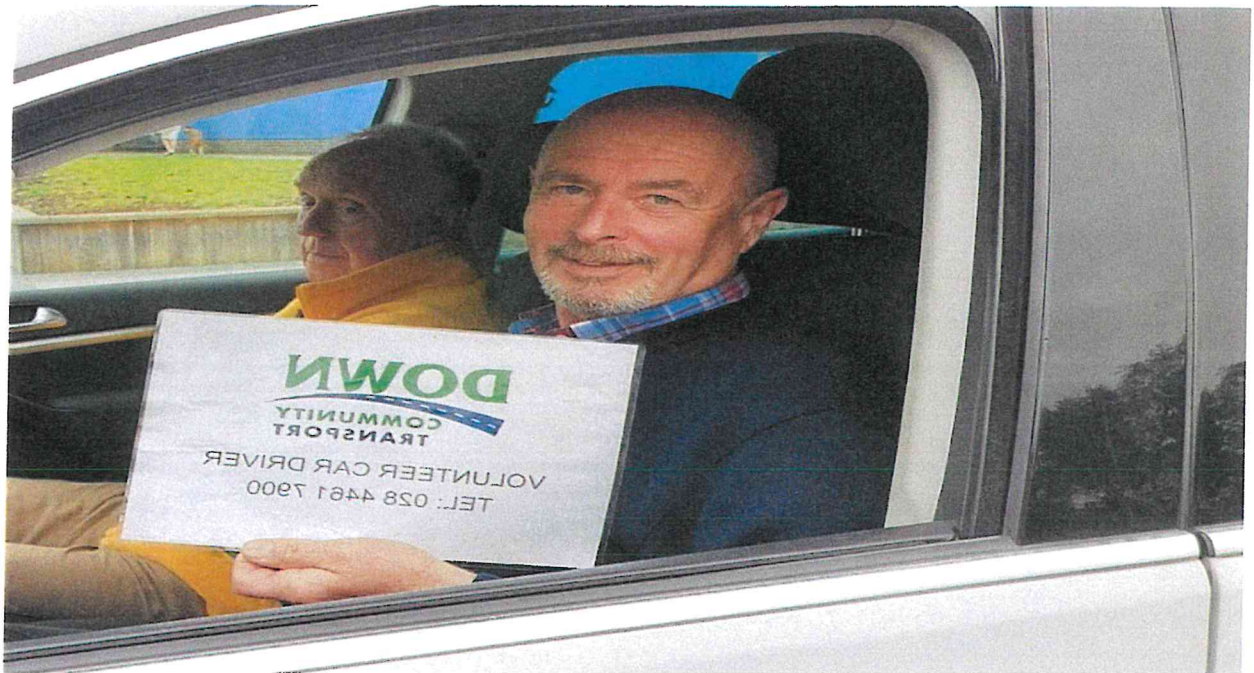
Volunteer Social Car Scheme:

We operate a Social Car Scheme (SCS) whereby suitably recruited and trained volunteers use their own cars under the control of our staff, providing a safe, efficient, and affordable door-to-door service as an alternative for individuals that do not have access to their own transport or that of friends and family, and who have difficulty accessing public transport facilities. This form of transport provides a more flexible and accessible one-to-one alternative to the minibus in circumstances where time and specific destination are critical, as in such cases as Social Welfare and Health related journeys when the driver may be required to wait and provide a return journey.

In 2022/23 we provided a total of 812 trips through the social car scheme. 581 of these were DAL trips and 231 were out of area trips.

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The Management of the Charity:

The DDAT Trustees and Management Committee are responsible for overseeing the business of the Charity. There are currently 7 Trustees who meet on a Monthly basis

There is a full time Manager who is responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the Charity. There are 3 office staff: Finance Officer (25 hours), Bookings Officers (30 Hours) and Bookings Officer (25 Hours).

There are 8 contract drivers on a mixture of paid contract of 35 hours, 30 hours, 25 hours & 15 hours. All drivers have full D1 or full D PCV category driver license and CPC. They also have Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training.

Partnership Working:

DDAT is represented on the following voluntary sector networks: NMD Community and Voluntary Stakeholders Forum, Good Morning Down Management Committee, Safe & Well Caring Communities, Age Friendly Strategic Forum & Age Friendly Alliance.

This Year DDAT also attended the following events: Good Morning Down Members Events, Community Information days in Ballyhornan Centre. Met with local MLAS.

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The charities financial position at the end of the year.

2022/23 Financial year was a particularly difficult year for everyone with both the Covid pandemic and the uncertainty around funding for all voluntary organisations.

The financial challenges were:

- Replacing an aging fleet of minibuses with a year-to-year grant
- Pressures of rising costs, specifically but not limited to fuel costs.
- We are facing the challenge of increased demand for journeys, as we recover from Covid-19 our members are wishing to get back into life. However, with costs rising we cannot deliver the same services without an increase in our grant.
- As a result of the cost-of-living crisis the demand for our service has increased.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to, the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped achieve the charity purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Down District Accessible Transport exists to develop, deliver, and maintain non- for- profit accessible community transport options for the public benefit of our members.

Our public benefit provided through our transport services reduces social isolation and social exclusion by reaching the hard to reach and providing access to essential services and connections to the wider community. Our services improve the quality of life, health and well- being for our users by enabling access to health and medical facilities.

Down District Accessible Transport's services also target social need by facilitating access to training and employment opportunities for our members.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

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Daly Park & Company Ltd were appointed auditors by the trustees and they have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 16 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Helen Coulter
Helen Coulter
Trustee

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also directors of Down District Accessible Transport for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees as the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law) including FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the net income or expenditure of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

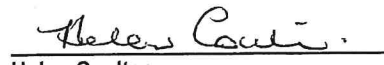
The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 16 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


Francis Eugene Casement
Trustee


Helen Coulter
Trustee