

BALTIC TOGETHER

Report of the trustees for the Period ending 31 March 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their annual committee report together with the financial statements of the Organisation for the year ending 31 March 2025

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2008 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Charity Number CCNI: NIC 109522

Our purposes and activities

Baltic Together is established to enhance promote the benefit of the inhabitants currently residing in the MID Ulster Area and originally from the area defined as the Baltic State -Lithuania (hereinafter called the "beneficiaries") of the Mid Ulster Area (herein called the area of benefit) to advance education, and to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreational or other leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants and in particular to Invite people to join joint projects, activities, join the community building process and organize various initiatives with the aim of gathering and growing community. Provide or secure the provision of welfare rights advice and information and refer those in need of professional assistance to the relevant agencies.

Our Lithuanian Library is open 3 days per week set times and we also have regular meetings which is announced on our social media beforehand. We are an equal opportunity group where elderly, parents and their children, women and man are welcome. As a Charity we are running regular sessions and meetings for woman; parents and kids stay and play sessions (trial stage at the moment); Lithuanian book library where everyone welcome to come and pick a book, have a chat, meet new people; we also organize Mid-summer festival for all community, Christmas family event and coffee mornings. Many more activities planned but haven't taken place yet.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'. The Organisation relies on grant income and donations to cover its operating costs.

There is no private benefit to any individual - the only private benefit flowing from this purpose that it is incidental and is necessary for staff to receive on-going training in safeguarding children. These benefits are necessary to ensure the highest quality of service benefits the beneficiaries.

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Aims

- i) To advance of community settlement and development in Northern Ireland
- ii) To advance the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill -health, disability, financial hardship or another disadvantage.
- iii) provide or secure the provision of welfare rights advice and information and refer those in need of professional assistance to the relevant agencies.
- iv) To support the development of a cohesive, shared and integrated community.
- v) Preservation of Historical and Cultural traditions from Baltic States including dance, music and language.
- vi) To encourage civic responsibility/good citizen
- vii) To assist with the creation and enjoyment and achievement of Volunteering
- viii) to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the directors may, from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy and going concern

Without the support of our funders and continued fundraising efforts by staff and volunteers, it is doubtful that the organisation could continue operating. The trustees are endeavouring to ensure the success with a combination of measures including fundraisers and applications to funding bodies in an effort to secure staff posts and long-term sustainability of the charity.

A major financial concern for the Organisation as with any charity will be ongoing financial sustainability from funding in the years to come. The trustees are aware of the need to maintain free reserves, especially in the current economic climate. Continual fundraising will provide a challenging environment in the years to come.

We would like to acknowledge the continued support of our donor Zega Support Organisation and Mid Ulster Council.

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Reference and administrative details

Operating address: 39 Thomas Street, Dungannon BT70 1HN

Our advisers

Accountant: E A Grimley & Co, 16 Clonoe Village Business Park, 98 Washingbay Road, Dungannon, BT71 4PU

Bankers: Ulster Bank 39 Market Square, Dungannon BT70 1JJ

Trustees

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Founder: Andrius Zubernis

Chair: Jolanta Bartuseviciene

Vice chair: Rima Velaityte

Secretary:

Treasurer: Jurate Airose

Development officer: Evelina Bakseviciute

Safeguarding officer & Volunteer coordinator: Kristina Jukneliene

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

"Baltic Together" is organisation governed by a Constitution.

Appointment of trustees

As set out in the Trust Deed, the maximum Board members 7.

When considering co-opting trustees, the Board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

The Trustees shall be entitled to invite members of the public to attend as observers at any Annual General Meeting or any other meetings of the Trustees.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees undergo an orientation session to brief them on: their legal obligations under charity law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and inform them of the content of the Trust Deed, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

Any person wishing to become a board member must apply in writing for approval by the Trustees. It is a requirement that the board members attend an induction process covering good governance. During the induction they meet key employees and other trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

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The board of trustees, which require a minimum of 3 Trustees, administers the charity. The charity is managed by the Trustee Board, which meets at least 6 times per year.

This report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by

Signed: Jolanta Bartuseviciene

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Bartuseviciene', written over the printed name.

Dated: 9/04/2025