



# **Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2023/24**

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## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>164 members including:</b> <i>146 community members</i> <i>18 staff members</i> <i>16 organisations</i>
<b>NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS</b>	S Porter (resigned 30/11/23) K Ford D Farnworth (resigned 31/12/23) K Ellis C Wright P Y Isik L Aspey
<b>INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS</b>	J Warmington (resigned 17/10/23)
<b>CO-OPTED DIRECTORS</b>	None
<b>COMPANY SECRETARY</b>	R Barrow (until 20/03/24)
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	K Creavin
<b>CBS REGISTERED NUMBER</b>	RS00 7595
<b>TRADING SUBSIDIARY</b>	Active Wellbeing Works Ltd
<b>COMPANY NUMBER</b>	12618903
<b>REGISTERED OFFICE</b>	The Active Wellbeing Society Hay Hall Manor House Redfern Road B11 2BE
<b>AUDITORS</b>	UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP 9-11 Vittoria Street Birmingham B1 3ND
<b>BANKERS</b>	Unity Trust Bank Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB

## CHAIR'S STATEMENT

TAWS makes a profound difference to the lives of the many people we engage with through our activities and services. We have continued to grow and develop our work over the last year, and this report gives a dynamic picture of the many ways in which we have touched the lives of people and communities which have often faced massive hardship and disadvantage.

In last year's statement I began with the words "Change is a constant – organisations never reach a state of permanent stability." They were right last year and could not be more true for 2023/24.

Having transformed the way we manage our finances and secured a new five year grant agreement with Birmingham City Council (BCC) we were plunged into a new situation in November when BCC announced it was effectively bankrupt and filed a Section 118 notice. This entailed the potential loss of our entire BCC grant. I am proud to report that the TAWS leadership team responded with characteristic agility, speed, strategic nous and humanity and led a process to restructure the organisation and improve our systems and processes which has left us well prepared for the future. The process saw the departure of a number of valued colleagues and was painful, but we emerged with a new clarity on how we need to operate to continue to deliver our mission in future.

Within all this we were able to make a significant pay award to all staff after some years of falling behind the rising cost of living. It is a tribute to the hard work of our staff that we have continued to win grants and contracts for our work and in particular to our finance team which has established excellent financial management systems so that were able to finish the year with a small surplus.

On the Board we have welcomed four new members – Payam Yuce Isik, Linda Aspey, Waseem Zaffar and Hayley King. They bring a wide range of skills and experience to our governance which will be of huge value in overseeing TAWS as it moves forward. The Board has been working towards Tier Three Governance accreditation with Sport England as an assurance of best practice in our governance.

As we move into Autumn there is a palpable sense of change in the air. We have a new Government which seems to understand better the aspirations of organisations like ours. Whilst the funding environment at local level remains very challenging, it is heartening to see TAWS engaged in strategic dialogue with policy makers and potential partners nationally, regionally and locally about how we can do more to enable people and communities to become more active and engaged and able to improve their lives.

The Board is confident that TAWS is ready and well positioned to seize every suitable opportunity to grow our services in Birmingham, the West Midlands, Essex and beyond over the coming year. This is reflected in the new branding for the organisation. A big thanks to all involved in developing our new look which captures superbly what we do and who we are.

As always I would like to extend a huge thanks to all who are or have been involved with TAWS over the past year whether paid or unpaid. Your energy, enthusiasm and resilience make TAWS the unique organisation that it is.

**Kevin Ford, Chair of Trustees**

## DIRECTORS REPORT

2023/2024 has been a difficult time for many of those that we work with, especially in the city of Birmingham. While we now know the outcome of the General Election, much of 2023/24 was spent in national uncertainty about the future political direction of travel, and with a sense of one era leaving as another was wanting to start. We saw the outcomes of that uncertainty play out most impactfully on those in the most deprived communities, those living in poverty and scarcity. While funders continued to attempt to address need, there has been a short term/ time limited element to it, and a sense of resignation to the inadequacy of the system's ability to respond in light of the uncertainty.

In September 2023, one of our main funders, Birmingham City Council, declared a Section 118, effectively declaring itself bankrupt. While not completely out of the blue, this was a devastating blow for a city who wanted to build on the positivity of the Commonwealth Games and look with optimism to the potential change in government. For The Active Wellbeing Society, it has been a significant event. The organisation was set up as a spinout from BCC, seven years ago. Our first contract was with them, and we had secured a 5 year extension to the contract the financial year before.

While we had moved away from any substantial reliance on the BCC funding as we had diversified across the country and into new delivery areas, we were still impacted upon by the news, and spent a few months awaiting a decision from the Council about continued funding. We worked with them to try to find an acceptable way forward for the communities in scarcity that we serve here in the city. We had confirmation by the end of the financial year 2023/24 that 2024/25 will be the last year of our contract on the current terms and we face a reduction of at least 69% of the grant for the next three years, with significant continued uncertainty after that.

While this wasn't an easy experience for the organisation, it came at a time where our operating model and our expansion had necessitated a need for system change within the organisation, and we took the opportunity of the change and uncertainty to shift gears within the organisation. We operate very deliberately in a place of bounded instability within the organisation, negotiating a delicate balance between innovative chaos and the systems and processes that tether and provide assurance and governance. As organisations change and grow, the balance around systems and structures can often need realigning. Working closely with the board, we realigned our system and processes to better serve the new, emerging, more nationally focused organisation.

As such we realigned our structures and removed a layer of management in the Midlands, putting in additional business development capacity around key new business sectors, and invested in some of the systems and processes that would allow us to grow at pace and manage that growth more effectively. The reduction in grant from BCC allowed a new focus to emerge that will be less focused on servicing a Midlands-based local authority contract. We ended the financial year 2023/24 with a small surplus, a new structure, a revised culture, and some small and healing battle scars. We worked hard to minimise the impact of these internal changes on the communities we serve, and we stepped into 2024/25 with a renewed purpose to amplify, diversify, and embed benefit to the communities we serve both in the midlands and more nationally now that we operate throughout the country.

While we were busy focusing on how to surf the waves of change, we also continued to deliver significant benefit to communities through the contracts we had. We supported over 63,000 people in the Midlands 1,860 people in Essex

## **DIRECTORS REPORT (cont'd)**

We have also continued to inform national thinking and contribute more widely to the development of the Sector. We routinely support the development of national thinking and policy development, as well as working closely with academic partners and others that are shaping the understanding of the benefits of the work being done in this sector and with these communities.

We have launched an ambition to work with partners in Essex and London to create a National Free Bikes Movement, building on the learning and legacy of the Big Birmingham Bikes scheme as well as Essex Pedal Power.

I can't deny that on the back of COVID and all the changes of the last few years, 2023/24 was another challenging year with moments of significant turbulence both for us as an organisation and also for the communities we work with. As I reflect back on it from a position of understanding more clearly the direction of travel with a new government and a new era emerging, we are well positioned to capitalise on the emerging opportunities, and the changes - while at times painful - have been necessary and are already yielding the benefits intended. I am grateful to our Board for their calm and insightful stewardship of our organisation, to the staff of The Active Wellbeing Society for their continued passion, dedication and hard work, to our funders for their support and faith in our ability to work well in communities on their behalf, and lastly to those who work with us as volunteers to add value and significant additional benefit for those in the communities we serve.

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I submit this annual plan to our auditors as an account of a difficult but important year for the organisation.

**Karen Creavin, Chief Executive**

## STRATEGIC REPORT

### OUR VISION

**A society where we work together to co-create a future free from inequality. Where everyone can be happy, healthy and active.**

We want a kind, inclusive society that removes barriers to participation; where inequalities and injustice are tackled so that people can live their best lives; where resources are shared according to need and where people can play a part in ensuring collective wellbeing needs are met. This includes the need for food, physical activity, social connections, and mental health support. We will work collectively with citizens to help them to meet their own wellbeing needs and those of the others they live with and around.

### OUR MISSION

**To knit social connections and systems, build resilience and improve wellbeing in communities where inequalities are the highest.**

We support people to have the best health and wellbeing that they can and to live happy and healthy lives. We are innovators and positive disruptors, grounded in communities, and playing a part in creating a sustainable world that benefits all. We empower communities by working collaboratively with them to harness their potential and co-produce improvements in their resilience and wellbeing. We promote community development and maximise opportunities to remove barriers and support communities to live active and connected lives.

We recognise that inequalities are highest where the need is the greatest, and that is often the result of systemic inequalities. We work to influence the system itself, through system leadership, to provide a deeper understanding of the issues and needs in communities, encourage change and provide more appropriate responses to those needs. We work in Birmingham, the West Midlands and across the UK. Our work is informed by data, evidence, and best practice. This includes the Five Ways to Wellbeing, which is widely understood and accepted as the five key steps to improving mental health and wellbeing

## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

### OUR VALUES

Our values are drawn from our direct practical experience of work to improve wellbeing, supported by a range of theories and perspectives focused on community and system level change. We are a cooperative organisation, and the values of cooperation are embodied in all that we do. We have an appraisal process based on the three values below, and all our staff receive regular 1-2-1 and reflection sessions to further reinforce a values-based working approach.

Our values fall under three headings:



**Open Mind**

Letting go of judgement to see with fresh eyes.



**Open Heart**

Daring to be vulnerable to co-create.



**Open Will**

Letting go of preconceptions in order to act on our principles.

These values form the core of our annual appraisal for staff and are embedded in our planning processes, our performance framework, and the way we work throughout our delivery.



## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

### OUR WORK

In 2023/24, we worked with our communities and partners to provide a range of social and physical activities to over 65,000 participants, to support their health and wellbeing and tackle inequality to bring about sustainable change. We continue to reach those who are most in need, with 87% of participants in our sessions living in the top 40% most deprived areas nationally.

Below are examples of key areas of our work over the past 12 months across the Midlands and Essex

#### *Essex Pedal Power*

Over the last year, our work in Essex has grown from strength to strength. Essex Pedal Power (EPP) has an inclusive and anti-poverty approach to removing barriers to participation, particularly in deprived areas. By providing a bike for free, the scheme is helping to build connections in communities and democratising the cycling experience, so that everyone has the opportunity to ride a bike.

So far, 2,061 people living in areas of high deprivation across Basildon, Jaywick & Clacton, Harwich & Dovercourt and Colchester, have benefited from receiving a free bike. Alongside the bike giveaways, we deliver cycle training sessions and led rides to improve people's cycling abilities, so they feel happy and confident to use their bikes – 685 people have taken part in a bike training session to date.



The bike recipients continue to see multiple benefits in receiving a bike – from improved health and fitness, to being able to get around more easily. The EPP team in Jaywick & Clacton received a Pride of Tending Award having

been nominated for their positive impact on residents' fitness and physical health, employability and the local economy.

Working with Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust, EPP in Basildon has pioneered a new way of providing bikes to hospital workers based at Basildon University Hospital – so far, 126 have been given to porters, healthcare assistants, housekeepers and other staff. This has prompted the hospital to making cycling parking more accessible, new lighting for cycle parking, improved shower facilities, and new lockers for cycling clothing and equipment.

A free bike scheme not only supports the individual, but also advocates for more environmentally friendly ways of getting around. EPP bike recipients have travelled a combined total of 244,390km – that's the equivalent of travelling round the earth six times, saving just under 30,000kg of CO2 emissions from entering the atmosphere. Alongside the health and environmental benefits, EPP continues to support jobs and skills development through upskilling opportunities, with 71 volunteers logging 6,958 hours in roles to support the project.

The breadth of outcomes and impact EPP has demonstrated has enabled us to secure additional match funding to support the programme. This includes funding to loan out child bike seats in Harwich & Dovercourt and the giveaway of more children's bikes in Basildon, leading to an increase in family-led cycling.

## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

### *Active Travel*

We continue to support communities to get about in physically active ways, such as walking and cycling and explore their local area.

We have delivered weekly walk and run sessions across Birmingham, supporting nearly 7,330 participants to get active at a pace that suits them. Volunteer support has been integral and we have focused on upskilling walk and run leaders to build capacity and sustainability in communities – nearly 700 hours of time was provided by volunteers for walk and run sessions.



This year, we increased the reach of our Bikeability scheme, providing 12,439 young participants with cycling training across Birmingham, whilst working with new schools and increasing our delivery in schools that support special educational needs.

We supported a further 2,155 children and adult participants in our community Learn to Ride and Led Ride sessions; provided access to a free bike through short-term bike loans and bike giveaways to 1,381 individuals, as well as repaired approximately 770 bikes through our bike maintenance sessions.



### *Health Inequalities*

TAWS continues to work in partnership with Primary Care Networks to deliver a holistic model of social prescribing, with our team of social prescribing link workers embedded in GP surgeries across Birmingham. We support patients with a range of health and wellbeing needs, such as social isolation and loneliness, depression and lifestyle support, as well as specific conditions, such as diabetes.

We have worked with 5,297 new patients as part of our social prescribing and health inequalities services, and provided 5,000 follow up calls to support them. By the end of the year, 2,800 people had been discharged from the service with their goals met.

This year, we expanded the focus and capacity of our community health work. Working with Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust (BSol MHT) on a 12 month pilot, we have been providing Physical Activity Navigator roles to support patients with mental health conditions and improve their access to physical activity, using our 'Holistic Interventions' approach. This has led to a further action research pilot to co-create interventions with Experts by Experience, to increase physical activity amongst people with diagnosed personality disorder, identify the barriers to engaging and accessing services, and inform wider mental health practice and policy.

Furthermore, we have started working with Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to support their Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INT) programme, in the east of Birmingham, providing a dedicated INT Expert role in TAWS. Integrated Neighbourhood Teams bring together multi-disciplinary professionals from different organisations across health and care services to prevent escalating need for the citizens within the local area that each INT covers, and avoid inappropriate, persistent, frequent service users of a wide range of our services across primary, secondary, and social care.

## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

### Community Food

Our community food offer continues to provide a much needed source of a hot meal for many, and increasingly so as society is impacted by a worsening cost-of-living crisis.

Through our four community cafes established with local partners across the city, which have also provided warm welcome / winter food spaces, as well as our mobile outreach food trailer and our work to support families as part of the Holiday Activity Fund programme, we have cooked and provided 18,850 hot meals across the city using surplus ingredients to save 22 tonnes from going to landfill.

Our cooking skills, slow cooker demonstrations and community / communal cook-together classes have continued to provide families with cooking and nutrition knowledge, with 160 people taking part to cook a meal and then sit down to eat together, as well as extra meals and ingredients to take home.



We know that for many citizens, their journey to physical activity has become much more challenging over time, and our learning has shown that supporting basic needs and non-physical activity interventions, such as food, can be a pathway towards physical activity.

Our community delivery teams have worked with colleagues in the Big Feed team to deliver physical activity sessions from the community cafes and support participants to take part in walks, chair-based exercises, table tennis and other activities that they have requested. As a result, we have seen 20% of café users take part in one or more of our physical activity sessions so far.



As part of the Food Justice Network (FJN), originally born out of need in the pandemic, we have also been focusing on influencing the direction of revenue and resource flow across the system, and identifying wider surplus food sources to reduce food waste and find opportunities to raise funding and access expertise from the private / corporate sector. This has led to some collaboration between the food system from farming sources to wholesale organisations to access larger surplus food sources and we have started to see some initial corporate donations to support the purchase of food supplies.

Additionally, we have secured use of space at the Birmingham Wholesale Market to pilot a surplus food hub and work with the individual stallholders and business at the market to access their surplus produce and redistribute these across the FJN and communities.

## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

### Sharing

Our Sharing work is underpinned by a circular economy, promoting the recycle, reuse and repair of equipment, and offering the free loan of a variety of items, alongside providing space for people to meet, to share/learn new skills and get active both civically and physically. Through the Share Shacks, we provide welcoming spaces with communities at the centre to co-produce practical solutions that meet immediate need whilst playing a vital part in tackling climate change by reducing waste.

Our Share Shack offer has grown over the last 12 months, with two fixed share shack sites in Ladywood and in Tyseley at our head offices, both of which also provide a Warm Welcome space as part of Birmingham City Council's scheme. We also provided pop-up share shacks in existing community hubs run by local partners.



Our mobile share shack vans, donated by the Commonwealth Games and refitted, are now fully established and operating on regular routes across the city, working with existing provision and activities, foodbanks, schools, GPs, community centres, and green spaces to provide items at a hyperlocal level and remove barriers around access, by taking the offer to people.

With our share shack model expanding, we have also seen an increase in users this year, with 7,900 participants visiting our share shacks to borrow items, to take an item to be repaired, to learn new skills through a variety of diverse activities including repair sessions, sewing classes, British Sign Language classes and memory arts, to take part in physical activities, and to connect with others.



This year, 3,485 items were loaned out, including gardening and DIY tools, sports equipment, books, and games – more than double compared to last year. To date, the Share Shacks have helped to divert nearly 1 tonne of items and equipment from landfill, of which 150kg have been through the repair sessions alone, with anything from microscopes to lamps, to glasses to radios to sewing machines being repaired and reused.

Furthermore, research with some of the share shack participants has shown that 85% of participants now think about repairing, swapping or borrowing items rather than throwing them away, and 46% have reported increased physical activity since going to a share shack.

The positive impact on individuals and wider community has also enabled us to successfully apply for additional funding to further expand our sharing model next year, including increasing our repair sessions through the West Midland Combined Authority Community Environment Fund.

## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

### *Active Streets and Spaces*

By closing the streets to traffic and opening them for play, social connection and physical activity, we support citizens to enjoy their outdoor spaces in space and fun ways, with their families and neighbours.

Designed in consultation with residents, this simple but radical intervention enables local people to reimagine shared street spaces for community benefit.

We have built on our work with temporary accommodation (TA) providers and the Council, started last year, to bring activities across a number of TA venues in Birmingham, accompanied by a food offer, and provide much needed relief and support to the many families living there.



We also continue to support the national Holiday Activity Fund programme, to provide physical activity and food to children who would normally receive a free school meal, as we have done in previous years.

During 2023-24, we worked across Birmingham to facilitate 181 street and open space closures and events, with 7,190 participations across these.

### *Clean Air Justice Network*

There is substantial research showing that people from low-income backgrounds, from Black and Ethnic Minority backgrounds and from white working-class backgrounds are disproportionately impacted by air pollution, yet they are the least likely to have the skills and resources to tackle these high levels of air pollution that impact on health inequalities.

Across the UK, 28,000-36,000 people die prematurely each year due to poor air quality - in Birmingham alone, there are approximately 700-1,000 early deaths annually. There is considerable evidence suggesting links between air pollution and several illnesses including diabetes, dementia, and heart and cardiovascular diseases.

In the past 12 months, TAWS has brought over 50 organisations together to establish the Clean Air Justice Network (CAJN) to tackle the inequity in air pollution across Birmingham and beyond. We have a clear aim to bring likeminded partners together to develop partnership working and ensure that we are bringing equity to the heart of this challenge by engaging and supporting those most impacted by air pollution.

Working with hyper-local, city wide and national partners, CAJN have organised community conferences, network meetings, events, and workshops across schools in Birmingham to educate, empower and amplify key messages and interventions around tackling air pollution. CAJN are also working with national partners to ensure that there is appropriate local, regional, and national policy in place to support these efforts. Currently in Birmingham, air pollution substantially exceeds the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for safe levels of air quality – we must tackle this by bringing in place the legislative and policy framework supported by the right levels of priority and resources.

## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

### ***Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 Legacy***

As part of a consortium, we successfully bought in £1million of funding from the Commonwealth Active Communities (CAC) programme to Birmingham during 2022, with the following vision: 'To create a city where physical activity is the norm; inequalities are reduced; systems are changed to remove barriers; and sport and physical activity is accessible and integrated into daily life.'

The approach focused on five of the most inactive and most deprived wards in the city with five themes of interventions being delivered with partners - social prescribing, workforce development, young people engagement, cycling and creating active environments.

Over the last 12 months, TAWS' role has included providing capacity for project coordination and programme support, working with the consortium partners to create a digital activity finder, and delivering a programme of co-created physical activities, including walking, health engagement and green social prescribing, and cycling and bike maintenance.



We have also supported the development and training of community members and groups in a range of physical activity skills, through our

Ride Leaders course, our Walk Leader Best Practice sessions, and Green Social Prescribing workshops and training resources.

We look forward to supporting the next phase of CAC, now known as Active Birmingham, with our partners in 2024-25, to build on the learning and continue to serve the areas of highest inactivity and social need across the city.



### ***Consultancy and Training***

As part of our approach to developing the learning from our interventions further, and in order to diversify funding sources for the organisation, we are deliberately expanding the consultancy and training work that we do for the organisation. Throughout this year, we have developed learning from the Active Communities programme, as well as continued our work with evaluation and insight, engagement activities, and leadership training and programmes. These have been undertaken with partners as appropriate, including the Local Government Association, Human Rewilding, ThoughtBox, BCC Public Health, and others.

We will continue to develop our training and consultancy resources and seek to increase related income as appropriate.

## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

### Active Communities

Funded by Sport England’s Local Delivery Pilot (LDP) scheme since 2018, the Active Communities programme has worked across six of the most deprived areas in Birmingham and Solihull to tackle the barriers to getting active. This year was the final year of the programme’s original funding, and as such, there was a focus on the final evaluation activities, and collating, sharing and amplifying the learning, as delivery partners started to put in place their programme exit plans and/or sought alternative sources of funding to continue their work.

Working with a number of key partners who have supported the programme, TAWS designed and delivered a ‘Learning Festival’ – a series of learning courses and resources to provide opportunities for stakeholders from across the system to come together to learn and share, and to create a ripple effect of system awareness. Our aim was for the impact to extend beyond the immediate learning about the programme outcomes, and create wider system shift by informing policies, practices and collaborations that address health inequalities, increase physical activity and promote community wellbeing at a larger scale. We facilitated and delivered the courses and workshops to 149 participants from across 53 organisations and groups, not only from within Birmingham and Solihull but also further afield nationally, enabling the learning to be amplified wider across systems.

As part of the learning, we will be publishing an Active Communities Story Artefact later in 2024, to bring together the programme’s learning journey into one document and share ideas, approaches and practices, stories and examples of the range of work from the six years of work. We hope that this provides the encouragement and inspiration for others to do things differently and address systemic challenges to bring about change. We are incredibly proud to have hosted the programme on behalf of Birmingham and Solihull, and to have had the opportunity to deliver on some of the key projects over the years in collaboration with our communities, for our communities. Some of the key achievements and impact of the programme are shown in the infographic below.



As part of Sport England’s continued investment into Place Partnerships programme, a further phase of funding, worth £250million, will be available to support local authority areas with tackling inactivity between 2025-28. We will work closely with Sport England and partners to bring some of this investment into Birmingham, for the benefit of our communities.

## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

### *Research and Insight*

As an evidence-led organisation, we are driven by data and insight. Our work this year has included national area profiling to support our business development, building understanding of community need and wider societal issues with surveys, focus groups and stories, and conducting project evaluations to help shape our services and wider policy.

We have continued to lead the evaluation of the Birmingham and Solihull Active Communities Local Delivery Pilot through its final year, collecting impact and learning and sharing this across the wider system, as part of the Sport England Place Partnerships work.

Our research consultancy work has expanded this year and we have worked on a number of externally commissioned projects. This includes Tales of Tyseley, a co-produced community storytelling project funded by Historic England, to capture the stories of local people and businesses and showcase these at an exhibition hosted at our head offices.



*Tales of Tyseley community story group*



*An exhibit from Tales of Tyseley*

We have engaged communities through focus groups on the topic of air quality to inform a West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) behaviour change programme, as well as deliver and evaluate a WMCA research project on the impact providing free Fitbit devices to support people with their wellbeing and digital engagement. Finally, we have started working with colleagues in our health team on the Better Together Project, which takes an action research approach to co-produce with experts by experience, to design and deliver activities for those with a Complex Emotion and Trauma (personality disorder) diagnosis.

Within all of our work, we have continued to put the voices of our communities front and centre, ensuring that those who are least often heard have an opportunity to shape both policy and practice.

### *Digital infrastructure and systems*

We are committed to growing the organisation at pace, and in order to manage that growth more effectively, we have begun investing in a number key systems and processes. Over the next year, we will work with system partners to develop and implement these, including a brand new website, and a workflow management system (Monday.com) to support our business development and project management processes.



## **STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)**

### **FINANCE REVIEW**

#### ***OVERVIEW***

We continue to work with communities to develop and deliver meaningfully ways to engage them in a range of activities and support across the West Midlands region and through our work on delivering the Essex Pedal Power programme with partners.

We have had 65,362 participations in total across our sessions this year – continuing a year-on-year increase and highlighting that we are responding to the increasing need, as the cost-of-living crisis endures and worsens for many, and as community organisations, such as ourselves, face uncertain times ahead. We continue to support communities to build capacity within and are both proud of and thankful to our community volunteers, who have provided 8,882 hours of support this year.

We continue to secure new income from a variety of funding sources, to enable us to do our work in and with communities, and provide longer-term security for the organisation.

#### ***FINANCIAL POSITION***

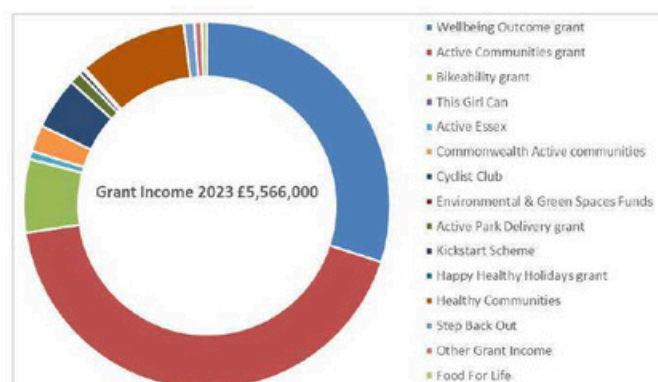
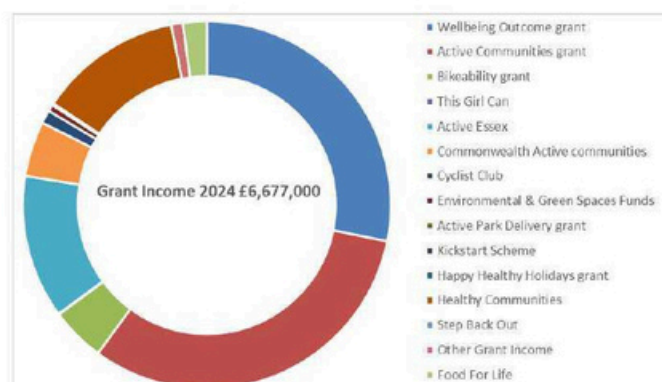
Our income is based predominantly on grant funding, though also includes a mix of contracted services and commissioned work. We are pleased to report that our income levels have remained in line with the business plan. We will continue to review the business plan annually, in line with our delivery and the funding landscape.

For the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, we received £6,677,000 (2023 - £5,566,000) in grant funding, and generated £289,000 (2023: £455,000) in income, in support of our charitable objectives.

## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

The net asset value of the Group at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was £450,000 (2023 - £376,000) of which £378,000 (2023 – £352,000) related to restricted funds and £72,000 (2022 - £24,000) unrestricted funds.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Total Income</b>	289	6,677	6,966	6,021
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	230	6,650	6,880	6,398
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	(11)	11	-	-
<b>Net Income/(expenditure)</b>	48	38	86	(377)
<b>Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension schemes</b>	-	167	167	1,249
<b>Asset ceiling adjustment</b>	-	(179)	(179)	(236)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	48	26	74	636
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
<b>Total fund brought forward</b>	352	24	376	(260)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	400	50	450	376



### RESERVES POLICY

Our trustees review the reserve levels of the Society annually and have agreed an approach of retaining up to 3 months running costs in reserves in the event of any requirement to suddenly close the business. The board takes a regular review of the levels of reserves, through the work of the Budget, Audit and Governance committee. The review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure schemes, the need to match income and commitments and the levels of actual reserves. Any surplus built up by the Society is earmarked for future financial years to support the advancement of our charitable objectives over the medium term.

## STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT

#### OVERVIEW

The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS) is a community benefit society and cooperative established under the Cooperatives & Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and is recognised by HMRC as an exempt charity. We were registered on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017, and you can find us on the Companies House website under RS007595. We are registered with and regulated by the Mutuels Team at the Financial Conduct Authority. You can find our entry on the Mutuels Public Register at <https://mutuals.fca.org.uk/>.

Our primary governing documents are our Rules, which set out our purpose and how the Society works. The Rules, originally written in May 2017, when the Society was first established, were amended, and agreed by TAWS members in October 2019. You can access a copy of our rules here:

<https://theaws.co.uk/about-us/governance-financial-statement/>

#### MEMBERS

We are a membership organisation seeking to develop a more participative governance structure. Our Membership model offers citizens who support our purpose and values the opportunity to be part of a democratic organisation with a say in how the Society is run. We put members at the heart of our organisation to enable us to work in a way which is collaborative with our communities. Members have access to information, a voice in the Society and the opportunity to play a representative role in its governance.

#### DIRECTORATES

As we continue to grow and evolve our work, it is important to ensure that we have a structure that supports our current and future priorities. Our directorate structure reflects our key areas of work as follows: Community Sport and Physical Activity, Healthy Communities, Food and Sharing, Knowledge and Insight, and Funding and Resources. Each directorate is led by a director who is responsible for developing and implementing an annual plan and budget, in line with our business plan. These plans are reviewed regularly and inform the management and planning cycles of the Society, as part of our organisational operational framework.

#### OUR BOARD

Our trustees have overall responsibility for the management of the organisation and take decisions, authorise purchases, delegate functions and enter into contracts on its behalf in line with our Rules, as a community benefit society, and the general law.

The Board is comprised of up to 12, though not less than 4, members and they have determined that the Chief Executive should also be a member of the Board ex officio. Board members (excepting the CEO) are elected for an initial 3-year term in accordance with the procedure laid out in our Rules. They can then serve a further 3-year term, within the confines of the rules of the organisation.

## **STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)**

The board has two standing sub-committees with approved terms of reference. These are the Staff and Delivery subcommittee (SAD), and the Budgets, Audit and Governance subcommittee (BAG). The terms of reference have within them the delegated authority for actions as agreed by the full board.

TAWS' day-to-day management is entrusted to the Chief Executive and the executive directors to deliver in accordance with the strategy, policies and budget approved by the Board. An appropriate system for urgent action exists where, if in the best interests of the Society, a decision can be taken outside the delegation framework.

### ***PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT***

As a community benefit society with charitable objects, Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and the supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing health and saving lives in setting the aims and objectives of the Society and in planning our activities.

Trustees review the pay of staff annually by benchmarking against pay levels in peer organisations of a similar size. The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles. The organisation is striving to pay at the median point of the sector and has made a commitment to pay the Real Living Wage. We regularly undertake analysis of gender and ethnicity pay levels and are committed to eradicating structural inequalities in pay and grading within the organisation.

### ***PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES***

Trustees regularly review a register of the major risks to which the Society is exposed, as part of our Budget, Audit and Governance subcommittee (BAG). Systems and financial insurances are in place to mitigate against any risks as far as possible within the practice and financial constraints of the Society. The BAG sub-committee monitors and reviews these arrangements and reports to the Board on their effectiveness.

Mitigating actions, both current and planned, have been identified to address these risks. This is also true of all other risks that have been formally identified which have a lower impact and/or likelihood. We have a range of mechanisms in place for managing risk, and these are regularly reviewed by the senior management team and overseen with regular reporting to the board. The Society's financial and risk management objectives are documented in its:

- Official budgets
- Scheme of delegation
- Financial regulations
- Risk management policy

These documents are available on request, and particular items which warrant specific disclosure are noted within this annual report.

## **STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)**

### **STATEMENT OF BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Board are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The Cooperative and Community Benefit societies Act 2014, and the law applicable to societies in England and Wales, requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, Trustees have elected to prepare their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015). Under the Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, 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 Society, the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure for the period.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe methods and principles in the Charities Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019)
- Make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charitable community benefit society will not continue in basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable community benefit society's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial statements comply with the Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and the Charities Act 2022. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the community benefit society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### ***GOING CONCERN***

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board have a reasonable expectation that the Society has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting policies.

**STRATEGIC REPORT (cont'd)****STATEMENT OF BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES (cont'd)****AUDITORS**

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the community benefit society's auditors are unaware.
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The auditors, UHY Hacker Younger (Birmingham) LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting. The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by the Board, as the trustees on 15 October 2024 and signed off on their behalf by:

.....

**K Ford**

**Chair of Trustees**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ACTIVE WELLBEING SOCIETY LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Active Wellbeing Society Limited (the parent 'society') and its subsidiaries the 'group' for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Section 87 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

This report is made solely to the society's members, as a body, in accordance with the Section 87 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the society's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the society and the society's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent society's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Section 87 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 .

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statement is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ACTIVE WELLBEING SOCIETY LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)****Other information**

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable society and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- a satisfactory system of control over transactions has not been maintained; or
- the society has not kept proper accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the books of account; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of the Board**

As explained more fully in the report of the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 21, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and parent charitable society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ACTIVE WELLBEING SOCIETY LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)****Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (cont'd)**

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

Based on our understanding of the group and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the acts by the group, which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to inflated revenue and the group's net income for the year.

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of correspondence with and reports to the regulators, including correspondence with the Financial Conduct Authority review of correspondence with legal advisors, enquiries of management and review of internal audit reports in so far as they related to the financial statements, and testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the boards' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ACTIVE WELLBEING SOCIETY LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)**

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable group and society's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 87 of the Co-Operative and Communities Benefit Societies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable society's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable group and the charitable group's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

.....  
**UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, Statutory Auditor**  
**9-11 Vittoria Street**  
**Birmingham**  
**B1 3ND**  
**15 October 2024**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	2	1	-	1	15
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for advancing health and community development	3	-	6,677	6,677	5,566
Other trading activities	4	242	-	242	425
Investment income	5	46	-	46	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>289</b>	<b>6,677</b>	<b>6,966</b>	<b>6,021</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	6	230	-	230	679
Charitable activities:					
- Advancing health and community development	6 & 7	-	6,650	6,650	5,719
<b>Total</b>	7	<b>230</b>	<b>6,650</b>	<b>6,880</b>	<b>6,398</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>59</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>(377)</b>
Transfers between funds	15	(11)	11	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	26 & 27	-	167	167	1,249
Asset ceiling adjustment	26 & 27	-	(179)	(179)	(236)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>636</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	16	<b>24</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>(260)</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	16	<b>72</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>376</b>

All of the Society's activities derive from incoming resources, resources expended and net movements in funds arising from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Group 2024 £'000	Society 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Society 2023 £'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11	96	89	67	56
Investment assets	12	-	-	-	-
		<u>96</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>56</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	1,045	1,190	781	777
Cash at bank and in hand		1,949	1,773	2,415	2,384
		<u>2,994</u>	<u>2,963</u>	<u>3,196</u>	<u>3,161</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(2,440)</u>	<u>(2,454)</u>	<u>(2,387)</u>	<u>(2,357)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		554	509	809	804
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		650	598	876	860
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(200)	(200)	(500)	(500)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<u>450</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>360</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26 & 27	-	-	-	-
<b>Total net assets/(liabilities)</b>		<u><u>450</u></u>	<u><u>398</u></u>	<u><u>376</u></u>	<u><u>360</u></u>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>					
Share capital	25	-	-	-	-
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
- Restricted income fund	16	378	378	352	352
- Pension reserve	16	-	-	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>		<u>378</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>352</u>
<b>Unrestricted income fund</b>	16	<u>72</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>8</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>		<u>72</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>8</u>
<b>Total funds surplus</b>		<u><u>450</u></u>	<u><u>398</u></u>	<u><u>376</u></u>	<u><u>360</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 27 to 48 were approved by the board and authorised for issue on 15 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
K Ford  
Chair of Trustees

.....  
K Creavin  
Chief Executive Officer

.....  
J Hatton  
Secretary

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	20	(452)	355
Cash flows from investing activities	21	(14)	(39)
Cash flows from financing activities	22	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(466)</u>	<u>316</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	23	2,415	2,099
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	23	<u>1,949</u>	<u>2,415</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****1 Statement of Accounting Policies**

A summary of principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

**Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements of the Society, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Charities Act 2011 and the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

The Active Wellbeing Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**Going Concern**

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Society has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**Income**

All incoming resources are recognised when the Society has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

**• Grants**

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Capital grants are recognised when receivable and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance sheet in creditors; amounts falling due within one year in deferred income.

**• Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Society which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable, where receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

**• Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

**• Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the Society has provided the goods or services.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (Cont'd)

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

- Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Society's accounting policies.

### Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Society to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

- **Charitable Activities**

These are costs incurred on the Society's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Society apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

### Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets, to write them down to their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives. No depreciation is provided on leasehold land where the lease is more than 20 years. The principal annual rates used for other assets are:

Vehicles	25% straight line
Furniture and Equipment	25% straight line
Mobile Equipment Computers & Software	33.33% straight line

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (Cont'd)****Tangible Fixed Assets (continued)**

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Leased assets**

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**Financial Instruments**

The Society only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Society and their measurement basis are as follows:

*Financial assets* - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

*Cash at bank* - is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instrument, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14 and 15. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

**Taxation**

The Society is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Society is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

**Pensions Benefits**

Retirement benefits to employees of the Society are provided by the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS') and by auto enrollment. The LGPS is a defined benefit scheme and auto enrollment is a defined contribution scheme.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Society in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of the scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments.

They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (Cont'd)****Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Society at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from various Local Authorities, Government Bodies and Private sponsors including; Sport England.

**Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

**Critical accounting estimates and assumptions**

The Society makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in notes 26 and 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 March 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

**Critical areas of judgement**

The critical judgements that the Trustees have made in the process of applying the Society's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the statutory financial statements are discussed below:

The critical areas of judgement are accounting for government grants, accounting for the write down of assets through depreciation and accounting for the pension liability. Government grants are accounted for as restricted funds. The pension liability is assessed by an independent actuarial valuation. Depreciation rates are based on the expected life of the asset.

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment assets, the Trustees have considered both external and internal sources of information such as market conditions, counterparty credit ratings and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial year.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

## 2 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Donations	1	-	1	15
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>

## 3 FUNDING FOR ADVANCING HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<b>Government grants</b>				
Wellbeing Outcome grant	-	1,699	1,699	1,669
Active Communities grant	-	2,132	2,132	2,373
Bikeability grant	-	319	319	359
This Girl Can	-	4	4	1
Active Essex	-	842	842	40
Commonwealth Active communities	-	324	324	130
Cyclist Club	-	78	78	256
Environmental & Green Spaces Funds	-	40	40	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,438</u>	<u>5,438</u>	<u>4,828</u>
<b>Private sponsorship grants</b>				
Active Park Delivery grant	-	-	-	59
Kickstart Scheme	-	-	-	23
Happy Healthy Holidays grant	-	11	11	12
	<u>-</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>94</u>
<b>Other income from the Society's health and community operations</b>				
Healthy Communities	-	840	840	531
Step Back Out	-	-	-	52
Other Grant Income	-	68	68	37
Food For Life	-	139	139	24
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,047</u>	<u>1,047</u>	<u>644</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,496</u>	<u>6,496</u>	<u>5,566</u>

The income from the Society's health and community operations was £6,496,000 (2023: £5,385,000) of which £Nil (2023: £Nil) was unrestricted and £6,677,000 (2023: £5,566,000) restricted.

## 4 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Sales	242	-	242	425
	<u>242</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>425</u>

The income from the Society's other trading activities was unrestricted for both 2024 and 2023.

## 5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Bank interest received	46	-	46	15
	<u>46</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>15</u>

The income from the Society's investment income was unrestricted for both 2024 and 2023.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

## 6 EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £'000	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
		Premises £'000	Other Costs £'000		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	10	-	112	122	469
- Allocated support costs	61	3	44	108	210
Society's operations					
- Direct costs	2,518	-	1,086	3,604	2,724
- Allocated support costs	2,278	133	635	3,046	2,995
	<u>4,796</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>1,721</u>	<u>6,650</u>	<u>5,719</u>
	<u>4,867</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,877</u>	<u>6,880</u>	<u>6,398</u>

The expenditure was £6,880,000 (2023 : £6,398,000) of which £230,000 (2023 : £679,000) was unrestricted and £6,650,000 (2023 : £5,719,000) restricted.

	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<b>Net expenditure for the year includes:</b>		
Operating lease rentals	107	53
Depreciation	27	31
Fees payable to auditor for audit of the charitable group's financial statements	14	14

## 7 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<b>Analysis of Direct Costs</b>		
Direct staff costs	2,518	1,619
Consultancy	61	61
External instructors	211	182
Other direct costs	814	862
	<u>3,604</u>	<u>2,724</u>

	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<b>Analysis of Support Costs</b>		
Support staff costs	2,278	2,304
Recruitment and training	138	109
Depreciation	27	26
Premises costs	141	122
Technology costs	172	180
Motor and travel expenses	89	63
Advertising and Marketing	11	35
Postage and stationery	18	13
Insurance	4	19
Finance Costs	38	25
Telephone	33	24
Other support costs	72	42
Governance	25	33
	<u>3,046</u>	<u>2,995</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

**8 STAFF COSTS**

	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
a Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	4,022	3,723
Social security costs	382	346
Pension costs	212	237
	<u>4,616</u>	<u>4,306</u>
Agency staff costs	67	54
Staff restructuring costs	184	-
	<u>4,867</u>	<u>4,360</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	162	-
Severance payments	22	-
	<u>184</u>	<u>-</u>

**b Staff numbers**

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the society during the year ended 31 March 2024 expressed as whole persons was as follows:

	Total 2024 No	Total 2023 No
<b>Charitable Activities</b>		
Management	5	7
Administration and support	150	131
	<u>155</u>	<u>138</u>

**c Higher paid staff**

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance contributions) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Total 2024 No	Total 2023 No
£60,001 - £70,000	3	3
£70,001 - £80,000	2	1
£80,001 - £90,000	3	-
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

**d Key management personnel**

The key management of the Society comprise the trustees, directors and the senior management team. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Society was £477,760 (2023 : £462,597).

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

**9 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

The trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Society in respect of their role as trustees.

During the year ended 31 March 2024 there were £Nil (2023: £Nil) in travel and subsistence expenses reimbursed to the trustees in their role as trustees.

Other related party transactions including trustees are set out in note 28.

**10 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the society has purchased insurance to protect trustees' and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on society business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

**11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS GROUP**

	<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Computer Equipment</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023	11	148	49	208
Additions	-	21	39	60
Disposals	(1)	-	(13)	(14)
At 31 March 2024	<u>10</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>254</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	8	113	20	141
Charged in year	1	20	9	30
Disposals	-	-	(13)	(13)
At 31 March 2024	<u>9</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>158</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>1</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>96</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>3</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>67</u>

**SOCIETY**

	<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Computer Equipment</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023	11	147	36	194
Additions	-	21	39	60
Disposals	(1)	-	(13)	(13)
At 31 March 2024	<u>10</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>241</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	8	113	17	138
Charged in year	1	20	6	27
Disposals	-	-	(13)	(13)
At 31 March 2024	<u>9</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>152</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>1</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>89</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>3</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>56</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

12 INVESTMENT ASSETS  
GROUP AND COMPANY

The Society owns 100% of the Ordinary shares of Active Wellbeing Works Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales with a nominal value of £1. The principal activity of the company is the provision of trading services and leisure facilities. Turnover for the year ending 31 March 2024 was £242,836 (2023: £424,595), expenditure was £200,065 (2023: £362,078) and the profit was £42,771 (2023: £62,517). The assets of the company at 31 March 2024 were £244,629 (2023: £152,075), liabilities were £190,873 (2023: £135,122) and capital and reserves were £53,756 (2023: £16,953). The policy of Active Wellbeing Works Limited is to make a corporate donation to The Active Wellbeing Society Limited to be used for charitable purposes, based on the taxable profits within 9 months of the end of the accounting period.

	Group 2024 £'000	Society 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Society 2023 £'000
<b>13 DEBTORS</b>				
Trade debtors	350	335	516	417
Other debtors	23	23	40	40
Prepayments and accrued income	672	672	225	213
Amounts due from group undertakings	-	160	-	107
	<u>1,045</u>	<u>1,190</u>	<u>781</u>	<u>777</u>
<b>14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>				
	Group 2024 £'000	Society 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Society 2023 £'000
Trade creditors	215	196	159	159
Taxes and social security	98	98	89	89
Other creditors	174	164	166	140
Deferred income	1,534	1,534	1,828	1,828
Accruals	119	116	145	141
Loan	300	300	-	-
Amounts due to group undertakings	-	46	-	-
	<u>2,440</u>	<u>2,454</u>	<u>2,387</u>	<u>2,357</u>
<b>15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN GREATER THAN ONE YEAR</b>				
	Group 2024 £'000	Society 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Society 2023 £'000
Loan	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>

On 17 April 2018 the Society took out an unsecured loan of £500,000 at an interest rate of 5% per annum repayable by 31 March 2023. A new repayment profile has been agreed with Birmingham City Council, who provided the loan facility, with the revised settlement to be made by 31 March 2027. The interest payable has increased to 12.25%.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

## 16 FUNDS

The income funds of the Group comprise the following balances of grants to be applied for specific purposes:

Group	Balance at 1 April 2023 £'000	Incoming Resources Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
Wellbeing Outcome fund (note i)	303	1,880	(1,861)	-	322
Bikeability grant (note ii)	24	319	(311)	-	32
Active Parks Delivery fund (note iii)	-	-	-	-	-
Active Communities (note iv)	10	2,132	(2,142)	-	-
Commonwealth Active Communities (note v)	-	324	(318)	-	6
This Girl Can (note vi)	-	4	(1)	-	3
Healthy Communities (note vii)	-	840	(840)	-	-
Active Essex Grant (note viii)	-	842	(835)	-	7
Cyclist Club (note ix)	-	78	(78)	-	-
Community Foods and Sharing Projects (note x)	-	139	(139)	-	-
Kickstart Scheme (note xi)	1	-	-	-	1
Happy Healthy Holidays (note xii)	9	11	(14)	-	6
Step Back Out (note xiii)	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental & Green Spaces Funds (note xv)	-	40	(39)	-	1
Other Grant Income	5	68	(84)	11	-
	<b>352</b>	<b>6,677</b>	<b>(6,662)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>Restricted pension scheme liability</b>					
Pension reserve (note xiv)	-	-	12	(12)	-
	-	-	12	(12)	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>6,677</b>	<b>(6,650)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	24	289	(230)	(11)	72
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>(230)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>6,966</b>	<b>(6,880)</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>450</b>

**Notes**

- i) The Wellbeing outcome fund has been used for advancing health and saving lives for residents within Birmingham.
- ii) Bikeability funding has been used to provide the Bikeability programme to children across Birmingham.
- iii) Park Lives funding has been used to provide activities in parks across Birmingham.
- iv) Active Communities grant has been used to support collaborative working and innovation, including the delivery of place-based community building, using social, civic and physical activity.
- v) Commonwealth Active Communities funding has been used to tackle inactivity in local communities and engage underrepresented groups by delivering activity in: parks and green spaces.
- vi) This Girl Can supports women and girls to be socially and physically active through initiatives across Birmingham
- vii) Healthy Communities funding has been used for a social prescribing link worker service commissioned by 9 Primary Care Networks in Birmingham.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

## 16 FUNDS (Cont'd)

**Notes (Cont'd)**

- viii) Active Essex Grant has been used to support Essex projects that help residents lead active and healthy lives.
- ix) The Cyclist Club funding has been used to provide bicycles to residents across Birmingham.
- x) Community Food projects take food that would otherwise end up in landfill and provide free food to those experiencing food poverty. Sharing Projects work with communities to extend and widen the range of products they have in communities rather than buy them individually, encouraging people to share skills, knowledge and time in return, showing the circular economy in action.
- xi) Kickstart Scheme provided funding to create new jobs for 16-24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment.
- xii) Holiday Activities and Food was a programme supporting school children across Birmingham to access free activities and food during the school holidays.
- xiii) Step Back Out supported communities to create the conditions for people to participate and reverse the habits that had formed since the start of the pandemic.
- xiv) The pension reserve represents the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (see note 26).
- xv) Environmental & Green Spaces Funds to help people to overcome the barriers to accessing green space and making the most of nature, whilst safeguarding the natural environment

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

Group	Balance at 1 April 2022 £'000	Incoming Resources Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 March 2023 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
Wellbeing Outcome fund (note i)	335	1,669	(1,761)	60	303
Bikeability grant (note ii)	52	359	(387)	-	24
Active Parks Delivery fund (note iii)	5	59	(4)	(60)	-
Active Communities (note iv)	9	2,373	(2,372)	-	10
Commonwealth Active Communities (note v)	-	130	(130)	-	-
This Girl Can (note vi)	-	1	(1)	-	-
Healthy Communities (note vii)	-	531	(559)	28	-
Active Essex Grant (note viii)	-	40	(40)	-	-
Cyclist Club (note ix)	-	256	(256)	-	-
Community Foods and Sharing Projects (note x)	-	24	(26)	2	-
Kickstart Scheme (note xi)	-	23	(22)	-	1
Happy Healthy Holidays (note xii)	-	12	(3)	-	9
Step Back Out (note xiii)	-	52	(52)	-	-
Other Grant Income	-	37	(75)	43	5
	<b>401</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>(5,688)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>352</b>
<b>Restricted pension scheme liability</b>					
Pension reserve (note xiv)	(982)	-	(31)	1,013	-
	<b>(982)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>(581)</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>(5,719)</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>352</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	321	455	(679)	(73)	24
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>(679)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>(260)</b>	<b>6,021</b>	<b>(6,398)</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>376</b>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

## 16 FUNDS (cont'd)

Society	Balance at 1 April 2023 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
Wellbeing Outcome fund (note i)	303	1,880	(1,861)	-	322
Bikeability grant (note ii)	24	319	(311)	-	32
Active Communities (note iv)	10	2,132	(2,142)	-	-
Commonwealth Active Communities (note v)	-	324	(318)	-	6
This Girl Can (note vi)	-	4	(1)	-	3
Healthy Communities (note vii)	-	840	(840)	-	-
Active Essex Grant (note viii)	-	842	(835)	-	7
Cyclist Club (note ix)	-	78	(78)	-	-
Community Foods and Sharing (note x)	-	139	(139)	-	-
Kickstart Scheme (note xi)	1	-	-	-	1
Happy Healthy Holidays (note xii)	9	11	(14)	-	6
Environmental & Green Spaces (note xv)	-	40	(39)	-	1
Other Grant Income	5	68	(84)	11	-
	<b>352</b>	<b>6,677</b>	<b>(6,662)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>Restricted pension scheme liability</b>					
Pension reserve (note xii)	-	-	(12)	12	-
	-	-	(12)	12	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>6,677</b>	<b>(6,674)</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	8	113	(90)	(11)	20
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>(90)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>6,790</b>	<b>(6,764)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>398</b>

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

Society	Balance at 1 April 2022 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 March 2023 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
Wellbeing Outcome fund (note i)	335	1,669	(1,759)	58	303
Bikeability grant (note ii)	52	359	(387)	-	24
Active Parks Delivery fund (note iii)	5	59	(4)	(60)	-
Active Communities (note iv)	9	2,373	(2,372)	-	10
Commonwealth Active Communities (note v)	-	130	(130)	-	-
This Girl Can (note vi)	-	1	(1)	-	-
Healthy Communities (note vii)	-	531	(559)	28	-
Active Essex Grant (note viii)	-	40	(40)	-	-
Cyclist Club (note ix)	-	256	(256)	-	-
Community Foods and Sharing (note x)	-	24	(26)	2	-
Kickstart Scheme (note xi)	-	23	(22)	-	1
Happy Healthy Holidays (note xii)	-	12	(3)	-	9
Step Back Out (note xiii)	-	52	(52)	-	-
Other Grant Income	-	37	(75)	43	5
	<b>401</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>(5,686)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>352</b>
<b>Restricted pension scheme liability</b>					
Pension reserve (note xii)	(982)	-	(31)	1,013	-
	(982)	-	(31)	1,013	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>(581)</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>(5,717)</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>352</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	229	209	(359)	(71)	8
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>(359)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>(352)</b>	<b>5,775</b>	<b>(6,076)</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>360</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

## 17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:

Group	Unrestricted	Pension	General	Total
	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	8	-	88	96
Current assets	256	-	2,944	3,200
Current liabilities	(192)	-	(2,454)	(2,646)
Non current liabilities	-	-	(200)	(200)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
	<u>72</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>450</u>

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:

Group	Unrestricted	Pension	General	Total
	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	11	-	56	67
Current assets	148	-	3,048	3,196
Current liabilities	(135)	-	(2,252)	(2,387)
Non current liabilities	-	-	(500)	(500)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
	<u>24</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>376</u>

Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:

Society	Unrestricted	Pension	General	Total
	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	88	88
Current assets	20	-	2,944	2,964
Current liabilities	-	-	(2,454)	(2,454)
Non current liabilities	-	-	(200)	(200)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>398</u>

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:

Society	Unrestricted	Pension	General	Total
	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	56	56
Current assets	8	-	3,153	3,161
Current liabilities	-	-	(2,357)	(2,357)
Non current liabilities	-	-	(500)	(500)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
	<u>8</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>360</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

<b>18 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	Nil	Nil
Authorised by trustees, but not yet contracted	Nil	Nil

**19 COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES*****Operating leases - Group and Society***

At 31 March 2024 the total of the Society's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>	<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Operating leases which expire:		
- Within one year	86	45
- Within two to five years	147	132
	<u>233</u>	<u>177</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

**20 RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	86	(377)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 11)	30	31
Interest receivable	(46)	(15)
Loss/(profit) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	1	(2)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 26)	(1)	4
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 26)	(11)	27
Increase in debtors	(264)	(198)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(247)	885
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(452)</b>	<b>355</b>

**21 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Interest received	46	15
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(60)	(66)
Disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	12
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>(39)</b>

**22 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**23 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	At 31	At 31
	March	March
	£'000	£'000
Cash in hand and at bank	1,949	2,415
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,949</b>	<b>2,415</b>

**24 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT**

	At 1 April	Cash flows	At 31
	2023		March
	£'000	£'000	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash in hand and at bank	2,415	(466)	1,949
	2,415	(466)	1,949
Debt due within one year	(200)	-	(200)
Debt due greater than one year	(300)	-	(300)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>(466)</b>	<b>1,449</b>

**25 SHARE CAPITAL AND MEMBERS' LIABILITY**

Each member of the charitable society undertakes to contribute to the assets of the society in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member. The share capital of the society is £60 (2023:£60).

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)****26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS**

The Society's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for staff which is managed by West Midlands Pension Fund and an auto enrolment pension scheme. The Local Government Pension Scheme is a defined multi employer benefit scheme and the auto enrolment pension scheme is a defined contribution scheme.

Following the transfer of employees from the local authority, Birmingham City Council, to the Society on 1 July 2018 there was a transfer of employers LGPS liabilities of £697,000 under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

The total pension cost to the Society during the year ended 31 March 2024 was £212,000 (2023: £237,000) of which (£12,000 credit) (2023 : £31,000 charge) relates to the LGPS and £224,000 (2023: £206,000) relates to the auto enrolment pension scheme .

The pension costs of the LGPS are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the LGPS is at 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £23,110 (2023: £22,557) were payable to the LGPS scheme £1,284 (2023: £730) and NEST scheme £21,826 (2023: £21,827) at 31 March 2024 and are included within creditors.

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in a separate trustee administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 March 2024 was £8,000 (2023: £18,000) of which employers contributions totalled £6,000 (2023: £15,000) and employees contributions totalled £2,000 (2023: £3,000). The agreed contributions for future years are 19.2% (2023: 19.2%) for employers and 5.8% to 8.5% (2023: 5.8% to 8.5%) for employees.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

## 26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

## Local Government Pension Scheme (cont'd)

## Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

	At 31 March 2024	At 31 March 2023
	% per annum	% per annum
Discount rate	4.9%	4.8%
Salary increases	3.8%	4.0%
Pension increase	2.8%	3.0%

Sensitivity analysis for the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities were as

	At 31 March 2024	At 31 March 2023
	Approx £'000	Approx £'000
Discount rate reduced by 0.1% per annum	41	41
Assumed pension increased by 0.1% per annum	40	39
Salary growth increased by 0.1% per annum	2	2

The mortality assumptions used were as follows:

	2024	2023
	years	years
Longevity at age 65 retiring today		
- Men	19.5	19.6
- Women	23.5	23.7
Longevity at age 65 retiring in 20 years		
- Men	22.0	22.2
- Women	25.0	25.3

The Society's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 March 2024	Fair value at 31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Equity instruments	963	1,078
Debt instruments	442	349
Property	95	111
Cash	79	48
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>1,586</b>
<b>Present value of scheme liabilities</b>		
- Funded	(1,579)	(1,586)
- Unfunded	-	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>(1,579)</b>	<b>(1,586)</b>
<b>Deficit in the scheme</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

The actual return on the scheme assets in the year was a deficit of £177,000 (2023: £10,000 surplus).

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	5	19
Interest income	(86)	(49)
Interest cost	75	76
<b>Total operating (credit)/charge</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>46</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)

## 26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (Continued)

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<b>Movement in deficit during the period</b>		
Balance at 1 April 2023	-	982
Movement in year:		
- Employer service cost (net of employee contributions)	5	19
- Employer contributions	(6)	(15)
- Expected return on scheme assets	(86)	(49)
- Interest cost	75	76
- Actuarial gains	(167)	(1,249)
- Asset ceiling adjustment	179	236
<b>Deficit in the scheme at 31 March 2024</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:</b>		
	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Balance at 1 April 2023	1,586	2,777
Current service cost	5	19
Interest cost	75	76
Contributions by scheme participants	2	3
Benefits paid	(13)	(12)
Actuarial gains	(76)	(1,277)
<b>Scheme liabilities at 31 March 2024</b>	<u>1,579</u>	<u>1,586</u>
<b>Changes in the fair value of society's share of scheme assets:</b>		
	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Balance at 1 April 2023	1,586	1,795
Expected return on scheme assets	86	49
Actuarial gains/(losses)	91	(28)
Asset ceiling adjustment	(179)	(236)
Contributions by employer	6	15
Benefits paid	(13)	(12)
Contributions by scheme participants	2	3
<b>Fair value of scheme assets at 31 March 2024</b>	<u>1,579</u>	<u>1,586</u>

The estimated value of employers contributions for the year ended 31 March 2024 is £6,000 (2023 : £8,000).

The fair value of the pension plan assets at 31 March 2024 is in excess of the present value of the defined benefit obligations at that date, giving rise to a net surplus of £415,000 (2023: £236,000). This surplus is recognised in the financial statements only to the extent that the society can recover this surplus, either through a reduction in future contributions or through a refund to the society.

The society is not able to determine that future contributions will be reduced and it is not possible for the society to receive a refund from the scheme, as the specific conditions for this have not been met. Therefore an asset ceiling is in place such that the surplus of £415,000 (2023: £236,000) is not recognised as an asset at 31 March 2024 and the net asset/liability recognised in the financial statements is capped at £Nil.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (cont'd)****27 PENSION FUNDING**

In accordance with the Admission Agreement to participate in the Local Government Pension scheme following the transfer of employees from the local authority, Birmingham City Council, to the Society on 1 July 2018 there was a transfer of employers LGPS liabilities of £697,000 under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006. Birmingham City Council however, have agreed that any liabilities relating to the Scheme membership prior to the Commencement Date of the Eligible Employees listed in the Schedule are 100% funded (as determined by the Actuary in accordance with the actuarial assumptions consistent with the most recent actuarial valuation of the Fund before the Commencement Date (updated to the Commencement Date as necessary)). Where any additional funding (as certified by the Actuary) is necessary, this shall be deducted from the Scheme Employer's notional allocation of assets within the Fund. For the avoidance of doubt, 100% funded shall mean that the Admission Body shall be notionally allocated at the Commencement Date an amount of assets within the Fund equal to the value placed on the liabilities as at the Commencement Date as determined by the Actuary.

The effect of the paragraph above within the Admission Agreement is that when employees are transferred to the Society, West Midlands Pension Fund will assess whether there is a deficit relating to the funding of the scheme for those employees. If the scheme is in deficit, being 100% funded means that the Society are not responsible for the deficit that has arisen before taking on those employees.

However, the Society will take on the liabilities relating to those employees, which can change over time. The Society will be responsible therefore for any changes to the deficit that arise from the commencement of the contract in relation to those past service liabilities.

**28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Owing to the nature of the Society's operations and the composition of the board being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Society's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. During the period, there was a transaction between the Society and Tribe DCL Ltd, of which Payam Yuce Isik (Trustee) is both the Owner and Director. Tribe DCL Ltd are a company that provide coaching, mentoring, facilitation and consulting services. The transaction totalled £4,150.34 (2023: £Nil) and were for the delivery of training programmes to TAWS employees and partners over the period that Payam Yuce Isik has been a Trustee.