

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2019. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on the 16 July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016).

### **Structure, Governance and Management** Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2000 and registered as a charity on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2003. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute the amount not exceeding £1.00.

In addition, the Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

### Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under company's Articles is known as the Trustees. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, co-opted Trustees hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

Karl Greaney was elected as Chair in 2012, Paul Townley, Phil Moy, Ron Abbey are all-eligible to offer themselves for re-election. Pat Tyler was appointed in April 2018 and Steve Field in May 2018. Sandra Christie was appointed May 2019, with Pat Tyler resigning May 2019.

Leasowe is an area of multi deprivation ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in Wirral for levels of deprivation. Leasowe has one area ranked 521 most deprived area in England, ranking in the 3% of most deprived areas. Due to the continuing levels of deprivation Wirral Development Trust will continue to focus on supporting people who are the most marginalised in our society, focusing our objectives and projects on supporting people to improve their quality of life.

Current Board of Trustees: Karl Greaney (Chair), Paul Townley (Vice Chair), Phil Moy, Cllr Ron Abbey. (Company Secretary), Steve Field, Pat Tyler and Sandra Christie.

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**Charitable Status**

The trustees consider that the charity meets the public benefits test as it is for the betterment of the people living in Leasowe and its surrounding area, without limit to any interests.

**Objectives and Activities**

The company's objects and principal activities are;

Objective

Object 1

**Promotion and Provision of Education and Training Opportunities**

Activities:

- Within Leasowe Millennium Centre we continue to provide informal and formal education and training facilities appropriate to the needs of people in the area. We continue to offer the well-established Education, Employment, Advice and Guidance centre supporting residents into Employment and training opportunities, this involves work with volunteers.
- Work closer with job centre plus and training providers to assist a clients journey to work
- Liaison with providers to ensure provision meets community needs.
- Developing the trusts provision of training to local residents in areas not met with other providers.
- Work with organisations to maximise job seekers income in the transition from not unemployment to employment.
- Promotion of education and training opportunities undertaken in Leasowe.

Object 2

**Protecting and Preserving Good Health and Wellbeing**

Activities:

- Through partnerships with Wirral Life Long learning we have provided space and facilities for a range of courses for local residents.
- Have worked with life long learning to engage the local community on further education.
- With partners we provided 50 hampers to families at Christmas.
- We continue to provide food bank vouchers for the local residents in crisis.
- Supported volunteers to provide a meal for socially isolated people at Christmas

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Object 3

**Addressing Unemployment**

Activities

- Working with local business to promote the skills of Leasowe residents to discourage “postcode” discrimination.
- Working with local residents to promote volunteering opportunities.
- Provision of a dedicated drop in centre providing advice and guidance for the people of Leasowe.
- Appointment of a dedicated Welfare Benefits worker to provide impartial advice.
- Continue with our long-standing close working relationship with the Money Advice Project to provide local residents with debt advice.

Object 4

**Encouraging enterprise, particularly Social Enterprise**

Activities

- Working with other development trusts across Merseyside and the North West through Locality, we have helped develop good practice in terms of successful management of community enterprises.
- Working with Locality we have helped identify potential funding to support community enterprises.
- Developing the capacity of the community to identify opportunities and to manage activities through facilitation of community groups, providing quality-volunteering opportunities.
- We continue to act as a signposting, referral and mentoring organisation for potential new businesses.
- Working with Community Organisers Ltd to grow the network of Community Organisers.

Object 5

**Recreational and Environmental Facilities**

Activities

- Encouraging the involvement of local people in the protection and preservation of their local environment.
- Undertake litter picks with local schools and community members
- Provide activities for children in Leasowe Library throughout all holidays.
- The annual family fun day provides recreational opportunities for families.

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Object 6

**Community Development and Partnerships**

Activities

- Continues to work and develop the neighbourhood plan..
- To facilitate a local strategic partnership which will seek to attract and allocate regeneration funding in line with local action plan.
- To develop the skills and capacity of the local community to enable them to sustain improvements made.
- To provide a bank of knowledge and expertise around regeneration which community groups can access easily.
- Through the continued work in Community Organising the trust has managed to establish and support a number of community groups.
- Wirral Development Trust continues to be an active member of the Locality regional committee and regularly feeds in to strategic plan for the organisation.
- Worked closely with Prima group to develop strong local partnerships to promote cohesion and avoid duplication.
- Wirral Development Trust has continued to foster partnerships with other development trusts in Wirral.
- Assist in the application and compliance for smaller user groups receiving grant funding.
- Has organised a number of trips to promote community cohesion.
- Was lead body on the lantern parade working with all agencies in Leasowe to tackle antisocial behaviour on Mischief night.
- Developed partnerships with Leasowe primary schools to promote positive strategic working relationship across the estate.
- Continue to work with Tranmere Rovers football club to support their super white army 2 initiatives.

**Work achieved during the year**

Library

The addition of the co-management and support of Leasowe Library for 21.5 hours, this was an important service that Leasowe could not afford to lose, so with funding through Prima Group we are able to create a new role for Family Worker Library, this role is supported by two volunteers who are able to facilitate groups and support the library staff. Through this service we have not only been able to maintain but expand the service to 6 days per week.

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Community Development

With an increased involvement with the community and capacity building through a range of courses, Wirral Development Trust is now able to allow volunteers to run most of our children's activity sessions, with the trust providing support and space. This has resulted in a larger workforce and the ability to run more sessions and activities for different ages groups at the same time. We have also supported local groups to campaign to reinstate a local bus service; this was supported by Angela Eagle Wallasey MP.

Training

We have supported residents into a range of courses working with Wirral Lifelong learning and the Community Organising programme. In continuing response for a growing demand on the universal job match system and a continued support around digital skills. Continuing to develop stronger links with the community. Under the community organising programme, we developed dementia awareness training for the community and staff of WDT and volunteers. As part of the Community Organising programme funded by Department of Culture, Media and Sport, trained 58 people in the introduction to community organising.

Health

The Trust continues to focus on quality of life and engaging people in activities in order to raise their self-esteem and develop their confidence. This has been achieved through the range of activities and the promotion of healthy eating, diet and exercise. The annual family fun day still proves to be successful. Tai Chi is still run for WDT, this is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. Facilitate group for socially isolated people to meet weekly in Leasowe Library. Worked in partnership with Prima Group and other community organisations to provide 50 hampers to families in need at Christmas

Youth

Engaging with youth activities that will benefit the community and not alienate young people from the older generation. Leasowe has seen a rise in anti-social behaviour being reported this year, Wirral Development Trust has continued in partnership with Prima Group to fund a youth night in the adventure playground for teenagers. Since the withdrawal of Wirral Borough Councils youth service, Leasowe as a community has tried a number of different strategies to engage teenagers and dissuade from ASB and neighbour nuisance. We have run the lantern parade for the last 4 years to dissuade against ASB particularly on Mischief Night. Throughout all school holidays a range of activities were put on for children aged 0-10, ranging from bingo, creepy crawly show, Easter egg hunt and museum trips. As previously stated we have been able to provide a range of activities for young children either through the library or with the support of the volunteers.

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Transport

The trust has always taken a keen interest in the transport problems in Leasowe, whilst buses through Twickenham Drive service the estate regularly; there are many residents that are not able to access the transport routes. Worked with a group of residents to campaign against the withdrawal of the 106 bus service by Merseytravel.

Environment

Fully committed to the environment, the trust has developed an environmental policy whilst minimising expenditure. This is being achieved through the careful monitoring of resources and suppliers who conform to ethical practices.

Risk Management

Like most small charities the continuing risk to the Trust is lack of funds. Every effort is made to ensure that the Trust has secure funds and reserves for the coming year, however the Trust accepts that if it is to survive and grow well into the future and continue its work, it needs to be self-sustainable. With the larger public-sector grants being delivered regionally by private sector organisation, the Trust is unable to attract big contracts. The Trust continues to have an excellent working relationship with Leasowe Community Homes who are still our main funders.

Achievement and Performance

▪ Number of activities run involving local residents, Providing them with the opportunity to engage and take part in	55
▪ Number of times families supported through the food bank	125
▪ Food bank vouchers given	172
▪ Number of visit for Advice and Guidance and training plus support to improve their overall quality of life	1767
▪ Number of people into work	104
▪ Number of people accessing benefit advice	623
▪ Number of volunteers engaged in centre	30
▪ Number of hours volunteers contributed to WDT	3700
▪ Number of staff hours contributed through volunteering	160

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Financial Review

Regardless of the various setbacks both financially and operationally, Wirral Development Trust continues to strive to be self-sustainable, increasing its own provision of services that will provide more employment opportunities and generable income, thus reducing the need for grants and funding initiatives that are becoming less reliable and competitive.

It is unlikely that we will ever be in the position to be fully independent of funding due to the nature of services we provide, especially in an area of low income and high incidence of debt/loan culture, which makes it difficult for people to be able to afford the true value of service provided.

The accounts have been prepared on an on-going basis

Investment policy

Apart from the prudent level of reserves maintained by the charity, there are few surplus funds available for long-term investment. However due to certain funding cycles where grants were received some months in advance of expenditure, funds can be invested short term in high interest deposit accounts.

Reserves Policy

The management Committee has examined the charities requirement for reserves in light of the main risk to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be six month's of its expenditure.

Plans for Future Periods

Wirral Development Trust plans on continuing its activities but is looking to contract with local social housing projects, serving their needs whilst maintaining its own objectives. Such work will provide a more stable form of funding and allow the trust to focus on the issues that matter rather than those driven from a top down process by Central Government. Wirral Development Trust will be concentrating on expanding its reach and services into other communities in Wirral.

Other

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Name change

Leasowe Development Trust Limited changed its name to Wirral Development Trust Limited at Companies House and The Charity Commission on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The reason for this was because the area of activities had widened to cover the Wirral and not just the Leasowe area.

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Responsibilities of the Trustees/Management Committee

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Wirral Development Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS102)
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees (who are also the directors) who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

**Auditors**

Hailwood and Co offer themselves as auditors of the Charity, although under current Charity Law they no longer need to report on the accounts in this capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) 2015 (FRS102); and in accordance with company regime of the Companies Act 2006.

..... Mr K Greaney (Chairman)

..... Miss Jennifer Jones (CEO)

Date .....