Company registration number 00309329 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 229119 (England and Wales)

# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Trustees** | Professor SJ Banks<br>Mrs LC Bird<br>Mrs P Buckley-Atkins<br>Mrs KL Davison<br>Mrs A Hawkes<br>Mr ID Hunter Smart<br>Mrs E Kilgannon MBE<br>Mr MJ Litchfield<br>Mr J Robinson<br>Mrs CA Smith<br>Mrs JM Worters MBE<br>Mr SK Bhowmick | (Appointed 20 November 2025) |
| **Secretary** | Mrs KJ Burrows | |
| **Charity number** | 229119 | |
| **Company number** | 00309329 | |
| **Registered office** | 8 St. Stephens Court<br>Low Willington<br>Crook<br>County Durham<br>England<br>DL15 0BF | |
| **Auditor** | Robson Laidler Accountants Limited<br>Fernwood House<br>Fernwood Road<br>Jesmond<br>Newcastle upon Tyne<br>Tyne and Wear<br>England<br>NE2 1TJ | |
| **Bankers** | Lloyds Bank<br>54 Fawcett St<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 1SF<br><br>CCLA Fund Managers Limited<br>One Angel Lane<br>London<br>EC4R 3AB | |

# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Solicitors**

Muckle LLP
Time Central
32 Gallowgate
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 4BF

Swinburne Maddison LLP
Venture House
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Durham
DH1 5TS

# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

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# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

## CHAIR'S REPORT

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026*

The past 12 months have once again presented challenges for organisations within the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, whether by way of increased service demand, or uncertainty about contracting or grant funding. The strong contribution by sector colleagues in supporting our communities with the needs they face, has never been more needed. The VCSE continues to enable community led action as trusted sources of practical and emotional support to their communities, helping to underpin community resilience.

In response to this landscape, Durham Community Action maintained our close collaborative work with colleagues in the sector, and across the Public Sector. We once again kept in touch with the organisations and groups that have played such a key role in sustaining community-led support activity in response to the most pressing needs of their communities. The focus for 2025/26 was once again about supporting communities to develop, and to grasp fresh opportunities that help to build community resilience.

Colleagues in the VCSE (large and small organisations) continue to face many challenges adapting service provision to meet community needs, amidst increasingly constrained funding and rising delivery costs. Staff recruitment and retention continued to present difficulties, even where funding and investment had been secured.

The VCSE and our partners in the public sector continue to face complex challenges with respect to equitable provision of public services, including health, social care, and education, at a time when public finances are under growing pressure. These challenges include the undermining impacts of poverty, poor and worsening mental health and continued inflationary pressures faced by individuals and organisations alike. We continued to see increases in the numbers accessing crisis support, and a growing number of people seeking debt advice and other welfare or emotional support services. These challenges remain highly visible and exacerbate the health inequalities that are evident across our communities.

Through all these challenges, volunteer led activity across County Durham continues to provide a safety net of support for those in need.

Our work during the year was focused on supporting volunteer leaders to build capacity and take action with their communities. We were able to collaborate with colleagues in the VCSE, and in the public sector, to support communities with information, advice, and training, provide leadership and advocacy for volunteer led delivery, and to amplify the demonstrable contribution that the voluntary sector makes to our local economy.

Addressing this broad spectrum of issues, our work themes continued to prioritise:

- Health and wellbeing & community resilience including mental health
- Volunteering
- Representation, advocacy, and voice for the VCSE
- Policy and implications for communities: housing, access to services, enterprise, carbon reduction and community energy, poverty, economic growth, social isolation, and loneliness.

The three key themes that remain consistent for us, year on year, are Volunteering Support, Community Asset building, and collaborations and alignment with key VCSE support organisations.

Supporting networks and partnerships within the VCSE continued to be of crucial importance to us. As a VCSE infrastructure support provider, we play a key role in representing and championing the sector. Multi-sector partnerships in County Durham continued to be highly effective conduits for consultation, information exchanges, problem solving, and co-production in shaping fresh approaches to services.

Over the course of the year, we once again worked closely with a diverse range of funders, including commissioners, and the Point North Community Foundation. Working collaboratively, funders continued to be hugely supportive. Through this support a lot of VCSE organisations and volunteer led groups were able to sustain activities and continue to consider how best to build and reshape their income streams and activities for the future.

Alongside many organisations in the VCSE who are reliant on a broad portfolio of funding support. We were very fortunate and grateful to have the overwhelming support of Durham County Council, Defra, the National Lottery Community Fund, National Lottery Community Fund - Climate Action Fund, North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, the Office of the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner, Point North Community Foundation, and all our other funders.

## CHAIR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026*

Our Trustees continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis to review income and cash flow and to ensure DCA remains a proactive well-run organisation that is able to respond to the needs of our beneficiaries.

Financially, we are grateful that DCA is able to look forward to 2026/27 with a degree of confidence, despite the continuing challenges, and the tough economic climate in which we continue to operate.

This report outlines the charity's objectives and achievements during the year to 31 March 2026 and details the arrangements that are in place to protect and develop resources. 2025/26 was a year that continued to challenge and stretch community resilience. DCA's longevity in County Durham has helped us to work responsively and supportively.

As Chair, I would once again like to express my thanks and appreciation to our Staff and Trustees, who are without doubt Durham Community Action's most valuable assets. On behalf of all the Members, Staff and Trustees I would also like to express special thanks and appreciation to our funders and all those who placed their faith in us to continue our support for the sector.

It was a pleasure to welcome representatives of over 100 community groups, funders, and partners who joined us to celebrate and reflect upon DCA's 90 years of operation at a special event held at Ushaw in November 2025. We know that the challenges on all sectors will continue to be exceptional, and we look forward to the coming years with confidence, as we continue to adapt and respond to the new and emerging needs of our communities.

On a personal level, I shall be retiring from DCA's Board of Trustees in November 2026. It has been a great privilege to serve as a Trustee, and the Chair of Trustees, and I know that I will be leaving DCA in strong and capable hands as it moves forward into the next phase of its development. Thanks, and best wishes to you all for your generous help and support.

**Mrs Jan Worters MBE**
**Chair of Executive Committee**

# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT)

## *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026*

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)".

**Objectives and activities**

The purpose of the charity is 'to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of County Durham and the surrounding areas without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together the said inhabitants and the statutory authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance the welfare of the said inhabitants with the object of improving their conditions of life, through any or all of the following:

(a) the relief of poverty.
(b) the advancement of education.
(c) the advancement of health.
(d) the relief of unemployment.
(e) the promotion of urban and rural regeneration; and
(f) such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined.'

**About DCA and Our Values**
Durham Community Action (DCA) works with and for communities across County Durham. We believe County Durham is a better place for having thriving community organisations. We run DCA well, so we can support community organisations by:

- Providing expertise and advice which is tailored to needs and circumstances.
- Supporting and nurturing new community initiatives.
- Enabling good volunteering practice and opportunities.
- Representing and providing a voice for the community and voluntary sector in County Durham.

| Our values | About us |
|---|---|
| **Objectivity, honesty & integrity**<br><br>**Do the right thing**<br><br>**Set high standards for the sector**<br><br>**Encourage a can-do culture**<br><br>**Accountability and responsibility**<br><br>**Professional pride**<br><br>**Enabling leadership**<br><br>**Learning the lessons and sharing them**<br><br>**Listening, reflecting**<br><br>**Analysis and problem solving** | **Providing Expertise and Advice:** We support community organisations to do their work effectively, by providing advice, training, resources, and help to tackle challenges, and to realise their aspirations.<br><br>**Supporting initiatives:** We work with networks and communities of interest to track opportunities and challenges for the sector, and to innovate and test new approaches which strengthen our social and community infrastructure.<br><br>**Enabling good volunteering:** We provide brokerage and resources to develop volunteering opportunities and good practice in volunteer involving organisations. We champion volunteering across all sectors in County Durham, and support people who are new to volunteering to find the right opportunities for them.<br><br>**Providing a voice:** We apply our knowledge and expertise within the VCSE (Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Sector) into sector led networks, and multi-agency partnerships in County Durham, the North East and nationally. We achieve this, through effective leadership, and representing sector interests and the issues that affect communities in County Durham. Through championing the interests of our local VCSE sector, we can influence and help shape public sector policy, and the design and commissioning of local services. |

The Trustees consider the Charity Commission's guidelines on public benefit, including 'Public benefit: running a charity' (PB2) when shaping and planning the charity's objectives and activities.

**Achievements and performance**

We have placed an emphasis on supporting and sustaining community assets, with an objective to support the resilience of our social and community infrastructure in County Durham. Our work streams were focused primarily on three objectives.

Good progress was made in delivering against each of the three themes during the year, producing a range of outcomes that provided clear public benefits:

**Objective 1 - Supporting Community Organisations:** Keeping in touch, providing support and help (information, advice, and guidance) for community organisations and groups, particularly for volunteer led groups. Supporting development and public access to community spaces and services.

| | |
|---|---|
| Priorities | • Keeping in touch with volunteer led community groups, and providing a range of information, updates & news, advice, and guidance.<br>• Supporting groups with funding, training, and all aspects of capacity building,<br>• Providing opportunities for networking and training, plus on-going support for the wider VCSE.<br>• Supporting communities to engage in research and understand how to get their voices heard to help influence policy and decision making.<br>• Assisting local groups planning for community-led housing initiatives, energy efficiency of community spaces, community energy, and other NetZero programmes.<br>• Bringing our insight to cross sector partnerships and collaborations as a champion of Voluntary & Community Sector organisations. |
| Achievements | • 969 VCSE groups and organisations were supported with information, advice, and guidance.<br>• The Share and Learn Network for community organisations and groups continued to thrive on-line and we provided a fully subscribed programme of networking and training activities. Membership of the network increased to 831 organisations and groups, reflecting the value that members place on the support provided.<br>• 1175 people participated in themed workshops, including Community Buildings, and themed meetings. also receiving 185 electronic newsletters and updates. 167 organisations participated in Community Growing and Food Network events, and 259 people attended 'Meet the Funder' events.<br>• Collaborating with colleagues in the VCSE, we continued to provide information and training, particularly promoting safeguarding and risk awareness for staff and volunteers in the sector. We also contributed to Adult Safeguarding Awareness Week in November 2025 through a series of on-line activities and events.<br>• We delivered the Community Hubs Development Programme, supporting a cohort of 235 community organisations through consultancy, case work, and training for volunteer Trustees to put governance and business planning into place, particularly focusing on energy efficiency measures. We also provided funding advice and access to small grants, including 13 organisations that were assisted to apply for capital grants through the National Lottery funded Community Spaces Partnership.<br>• 23 organisations hosting 39 groups in the Cree network were supported, with developmental workshops and support to access grant aid.<br>• We were successfully assessed, and officially awarded the Local Infrastructure Quality Accreditation (LIQA) by NAVCA, the national body for local infrastructure organisations. |

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| Public benefit | • As a broker and information point for the VCSE, we were able to ensure the sector had rapid access to relevant, timely guidance and advice. We supported and advised community services about how they could manage the issues and problems faced by volunteer led groups, such as sustaining their volunteer base, and dealing with fuel costs and increasing demands on services.<br>• Advice, guidance, and interventions helped to sustain community-based services delivered by volunteers, and community buildings managed by local people, helping them to establish, grow and develop the resources they need (staff, volunteers, and funding) to continue supporting their beneficiaries.<br>• Peer to peer networks for volunteer Trustees were expanded and supported, ensuring greater shared learning, problem solving and confidence building to plan and to sustain their offer.<br>• Knowledge, understanding and access to a changed funding climate were improved within the Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Sector.<br>• Volunteers and front-line staff were able to work together across sectors, to develop good practice and help them to provide stronger support for their clients and user groups.<br>• Lessons learned and intelligence were shared and disseminated, ensuring a clear view of social infrastructure issues arising through cost-of-living pressures and through longer term adjustments to different ways of working and the tools required e.g., digital services and reach for the most vulnerable and isolated people |

**Objective 2. Volunteering:** Support for volunteers and the volunteering infrastructure in County Durham (groups and organisations that work with volunteers, mutual aid groups, individual volunteers supporting health and wellbeing programmes, and local community action).

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| Priorities | • Sustaining our online County Durham Volunteering platform for recruiting volunteers and promoting opportunities.<br>• Supporting networking with the Volunteer Co-ordinators Network membership.<br>• Developing closer relationships with Social Prescribing Link Workers and the Primary Care Networks (PCNs), so they are better connected to the Volunteer led social infrastructure to inform longer term opportunities for development.<br>• Support and training for volunteer led groups, advice, funding and access to resources and training.<br>• Supporting organisations with volunteers, with advice and training, particularly regarding safeguarding.<br>• Collaboration with partners to support the Employee Supported Volunteering (ESV) network and County Durham Pound..<br>• To ensure that volunteer involving organisations have the resources and skills they need to support volunteers and their beneficiaries safely and in full compliance with their legal obligations. |

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| Achievements | • 1029 people, new to volunteering, were supported via the Centre for Volunteering, with advice, information, and guidance. 26 volunteering promotion / recruitment events were supported.<br>• 359 volunteer involving organisations were actively promoting volunteer opportunities through the County Durham Volunteering online platform hosted by DCA.<br>• We developed and expanded training and support sessions and provided good practice support for organisations that are run by, and support volunteers in: volunteer recruitment & management, volunteers and the law, safeguarding, disclosure and barring, and cyber security.<br>• 57 training sessions attracted 704 delegates from 308 organisations and groups, with 81 organisations attending more than one training session.<br>• We supported 70 Social Prescribing Link Workers with information and networking and professional training & development through a series of bi-monthly events.<br>• The Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum ended the year with a membership of 603 organisations that work with volunteers. We organised and hosted 4 meetings of the Forum alternating meetings in person and on-line, attracting increased participation from the membership.<br>• We continued to inform and consult with the sector around Safeguarding, and provided representation on both the Children and Adult Safeguarding Partnerships in County Durham. Contributions from sector colleagues are fed through to Safeguarding Partnership meetings and training events, helping to inform and shape resources.<br>• We sustained contact and support for spontaneous and emergency volunteering activity,<br>• We were successfully re-assessed, and officially awarded the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (VCQA) for a further 3 years by NAVCA, the national body for local infrastructure organisations. |
| Public benefit | • As a result of this work, volunteer involving organisations in County Durham are more effectively networking, sharing good practice, and offering mutual support for tackling and finding solutions to problems.<br>• There are improved pathways for volunteers to access opportunities, develop their experience, and make contributions that are both valued and add value to civil society.<br>• There is now a robust and efficient system of communication and collaboration between front line staff in the NHS and the VCSE sector with respect to recruitment, support, and placements for volunteers.<br>• Volunteer led groups and organisations have support and ready access to advice and help when they need it. They are better informed and have the resources on hand that help them to ensure that their volunteers are well trained and supported |

**Objective 3 - Voice:** Representing and championing the VCSE (Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Sector) voice, through the range of strategic multi sector partnerships, and through continuing reviews of partnership working across the sector.

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| Priorities | • Health and wellbeing - to sustain, and ensure that a social and community infrastructure is in place, and has access to resources which help it to thrive.<br>• Consulting VCSE organisations and service providers to build stronger local connections with Primary Care Networks and supporting Social Prescribing models and new systems for access to health care.<br>• Consulting, surveying, and analysis of intelligence gathered from the VCSE sector and disseminating it through partnerships.<br>• Representing community and voluntary sector interests as a member of the County Durham Together Partnership, and as a member of the Board of the County Durham Partnership (CDP). This enables DCA to collaborate with public sector colleagues to promote a joined-up policy for commissioning and funding, engaging with communities of interest in the development of new funding programmes, and influencing the provision of key services by engagement with Heads of Services.<br>• Consulting and surveying VCSE sector service providers to gather and share intelligence about needs, and issues arising from support work in the community. Disseminating important information and best practice through multi sector partnerships.<br>• Ensuring that the VCSE sector is fully engaged with co-production on responsive services to support mental health, access to advice providers and health care.<br>• Ensuring that sector networks including The Better Together VCS Forum are mobilised to share insights and experience, as networks of countywide VCSE and specialist providers, and contributing to development and delivery of objectives arising from regional and local public sector plans such as local growth & resilience plans and the developments in integrated neighbourhood health frameworks.<br>• Chairing and supporting the development of the Advice in County Durham (AiCD) multi-agency network as the 'go to' practitioner network for all advice agencies to come together and join up services. Network members provide advice and one to one casework support across County Durham.<br>• Continued development of a shared approach to system and workforce development in order that front line staff and volunteers have access to the training and support they will be needing remained critical (plus the tools to provide support e.g., access to referral pathways and link workers, funding for initiatives, and for addressing needs highlighted by people in crises, triggered through health, financial or housing related issues). |

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| Achievements | • During the year, we continued to Chair the Better Together VCS Forum, including two policy forums focused around exploring social value within the VCSE in County Durham, and celebrating a Thriving Voluntary and Community Sector.<br>• We continued to chair the Advice in County Durham Partnership, and also contributed to the County Durham Partnership Board from a VCSE perspective. These roles have helped to inform strategic agendas for partnership working in County Durham, and for emerging new models of commissioning services.<br>• Working alongside regional Grant Funding Foundations & Trusts, we helped inform and shape funders approaches.<br>• We continued to implement a connector model, to support more effectively targeted funding into the VCSE sector, and consulted with VCSE and commissioning colleagues through Better Together Policy VCS Forum meetings<br>• We represented VCSE interests in multi-sector Task Groups, tackling mental health, economic and community regeneration, funding and investment, and volunteering. We collaborated with partners from the local authority and NHS/ Public Health to co-ordinate communications, resources and reach into communities and responding to local needs.<br>• Co-ordinating and managing information exchanges for the VCSE and health & social care providers about good practice particularly in rural areas, regarding social isolation, health, and wellbeing services.<br>• Health and Wellbeing cross sector networking continues to increase in complexity and importance, with key changes in primary care, access to mental health services and the further changes within the Integrated Care Systems (ICS). Our focus has been on evolving changes in community based mental health support, access to and building strong social prescribing linkages with the VCSE (through the delivery of a Social Prescribing Link Workers Network), and providing representation for the VCSE into strategic governance models for the Integrated Care Board (ICB).<br>• In partnership with colleagues at the Rural Design Centre, we continued to develop and deliver the Rural Durham Community Research Network.<br>• We have built a strong partnership with Durham University and DCC Public Health through the REACH project.<br>• We have also been cross linking with CDP and academic colleagues to assure alignment of all our community engagement work to the strategic goals of both the County Durham Health & Wellbeing Board, County Durham Inclusive Economic Strategy, and the strategic vision of both the County Durham Care Partnership and the regional Integrated Care Board. Through County Durham Together, the Better Together Forum and AiCD Partnerships we continued to build collaborative responses to key themes facing our communities, including responses to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, opportunities for the delivery of welfare support funding, and supporting the Poverty Truth Commission for County Durham. |

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| Public benefit | • Voluntary and community sector led partnerships are collaborating to shape community services. This will enable them to be responsive to the needs of communities that are struggling with significant inflationary pressures within the context of a cost-of-living crisis, particularly regarding mental health, food and fuel poverty and access to wellbeing support and advice services. This in turn ensures that the voluntary sector is actively engaged and represented within key public sector led networks as they address issues of loneliness and isolation within our communities.<br>• Collaborative coalitions are working to influence the design and delivery of public service contracts.<br>• Front line VCS organisations are better informed and trained about the issues that affect them and the people they work with.<br>• Funding and investment into the VCSE sector are becoming more responsive, streamlined, and targeted, and more enabling in terms of sustaining a community infrastructure through the pandemic.<br>• The VCSE in County Durham has a strong representational base that is influencing the ways in which public services are shaped. |

**Volunteers**

The charity provides a comprehensive range of services that promote and support volunteering across County Durham. These services are provided through a Volunteer Centre (County Durham Volunteering). The priorities and achievements for volunteering services are set out in Objective 2 above.

The charity's work is directly supported through the Trustees, all of whom are volunteers. The recruitment and management of casual volunteers is handled through the Volunteer Centre, and there are appropriate policies, procedures, and agreements in place to cover both their recruitment, and their roles and engagement with the charity's staff and work.

Our primary role regarding volunteers in any setting, is one of brokerage and advice. We support groups and organisations in the VCSE sector to recruit and support volunteers, and provide training and resources to ensure that they have compliant policies and procedures in place. Significantly, we provide training, resources, guidance, and advice about Safeguarding for volunteers and for VCSE beneficiaries.

**Financial review**

The result for the financial year ended 31 March 2026 showed a surplus of £6,172 compared to a deficit of £106,200 in 2025. This was split between a £26,180 unrestricted surplus from the charity's core activities, and a deficit of £20,008 on its restricted activities.

The deficit on restricted funds relates to year-on-year differences in the timing between funds being received and expended on project activity. The surplus in our day-to-day activities was encouraging, especially given the ongoing challenges for organisations within the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. We ended the year with healthy reserves that will hold us in good stead to maintain delivery at current levels, when funding inevitably becomes more constrained due to the wider financial pressures within the economy.

**Financial procedures**

Our financial planning follows an annual cycle, linked into the business planning and reporting rounds. The draft annual budget for organisational core costs is usually set by the Board of Trustees at the start of each financial year. Income and projected expenditure for programmes / projects and work streams during the year are factored into the budget.

The charity operates an accounting system that ring fences project / programme funding within the accounts, ensuring that monitoring and auditing systems are transparent. The Executive Committee undertakes regular monitoring of the budget on a bi-monthly basis.

Durham Community Action's accounts are subject to a full external audit on an annual basis. The charity complies with Charity Law by lodging all accounts with the Charities Commission. The accounts are authorised and approved by the Board of Trustees and presented to members for adoption at the Annual General Meeting each Autumn.

We aim to maintain a diverse portfolio of funding sources. Forms of investment in services are also varied and include a balance of income from grants, commissions, and earned income. Sources of funding include:

- Charitable Trusts: Point North Community Foundation, Young Foundation
- Government: Defra
- Health: North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Local Authorities: Durham County Council, Office of the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner
- National Lottery Community Fund
- National Lottery Community Fund - Climate Action Fund

*Details of incoming resources for project-based activities are listed in Note 3 to the accounts.*

Surplus cash balances are invested on deposit to earn interest at the best available rate having due regard to the balance between risk and reward.

**Reserves policy**
On 31 March 2026, the Charity's free reserves were £509,179 with an additional £274,956 held in restricted funds that are ring fenced to support specific projects.

DCA starts from a position of relative strength, with healthy reserves that we built up thanks to the support of our funders. However, DCA has not been immune to the wider cost pressures within the economy, and we continue to look for savings through the careful management of running costs.

The calculation of free reserves, and the amounts that have been allocated against each category are:

| Description | Amount |
|---|---|
| Total reserves (comprising Restricted and Unrestricted Funds) | *£796,244* |
| Deduct Restricted Funds (which are ring fenced to support specific projects) | *(£274,956)* |
| Deduct fixed assets (which are necessary for the operation of the charity) | *(£12,109)* |
| **Free reserves** | ***£509,179*** |

| **Free reserves are ring-fenced for the following:** | |
|---|---|
| Six months' core costs and estimated redundancy costs | *£343,244* |
| Designated investment to undertake a stakeholder evaluation to measure impact and social value | *£11,500* |
| Designated fund for future organisational development | *£30,000* |
| Designated fund for the provision of services in the next business planning cycle | *£100,000* |
| Contingency fund | *£24,435* |
| **Total** | ***£509,179*** |

In accordance with DCA's Reserves Policy, our Trustees have addressed the following priorities when determining how our reserves should be designated:

- Six months core costs and estimated redundancy costs. This is the amount that we estimate would be needed to cover staff costs, redundancy costs, and essential running costs for up to 6 months in the event of the unplanned closure of DCA. This would allow time for an orderly wind down or transfer of activities to other providers, thereby offering some protection for beneficiaries, staff, and volunteers.

- Designated investment to undertake a stakeholder evaluation to measure impact and social value. This is a follow up to the survey previously undertaken in 2022/23 and will provide evidence of DCA's social impact.

- The designated fund for future organisational development will allow DCA to ramp up investment in staff training and development, and allocate extra resources to improve IT facilities and, digitise services etc. over the next 12 – 18 months. Greater use of online training and development is attracting more participants, and freeing up valuable staff time for more specialised one to one interventions.

- There are growing pressures on all community support services, and DCA's support will be under additional and significant demand by the VCSE over the next 2-3 years. Designating funds for the provision of services in the next business planning cycle (2027-30) will provide a buffer through the anticipated contraction and difficulties, when we expect to see a reduction in income whilst maintaining expenditure to continue our current range of support services.

- The contingency fund provides a hedge against inflationary cost pressures and unforeseen costs.

**Investment policy and objectives**

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Trustees have the power to deposit or invest funds in any manner, including the establishment of a trading arm (but to invest only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification). They have adopted a conservative policy on depositing funds and choose only low risk deposits.

**Risk management**

The Executive Committee of Trustees has a risk management strategy that comprises:

- A Business Continuity Plan incorporating an annual review of the risks that the charity may face.
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks.
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of the risks materialise.

Key risks for the coming 2-3 years considered relevant to this report, together with mitigating actions that have already been taken, or which are planned, are outlined in the table below.

These are also further considered as part of the reserves allocation policy (detailed earlier), which offsets the actual and contingent liabilities of the organisation against the combined value of all unrestricted funds.

This policy allows the charity to continue to operate on a reduced basis until alternative funding arrangements can be put in place.

| Nature of risk | Details | Mitigation |
|---|---|---|
| Loss of income | • Over-reliance on a small number of significant funders | • Work to secure multi-year grant funding resources from a range of key funders e.g., National Lottery Community Fund, to provide greater security and reduce dependency on short term income.<br>• Reduce reliance on any single funder by broadening and diversifying income streams e.g., through the development of income generating activities such as bespoke consultancy, training etc that build on the strengths of the staff team.<br>• Support the above objective by continuing to develop niche specialities within the staff team that enable DCA to respond to need, increase its reach and to fill gaps in service provision that open up, ensuring that services are cost effective & relevant. |
| | • Diminishing opportunities to fund infrastructure, policy, and support services for community organisations. | • Continued close working with thematic partnerships (Volunteering and Advice) to address needs and develop improved collaboration in service provision (shared resources, co-locations, and shared intelligence). |
| | • .Public service priorities focused on crisis interventions and removed from preventative community initiatives / development. | • Review and consolidate partnership working where possible to streamline and build capacity for shared resources with partner organisations/service providers. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Large scale transfers of public sector services and contracts | • Lack of capacity and resources to bid for large contracts.<br>• Payment by results<br>• Bankrolling<br>• TUPE implications | • Ensuring formal, relevant, and bid ready consortia are in place with Memoranda of Understanding and partnership agreements.<br>• Spread the risk and share resources and liabilities with a balance of larger and smaller, niche organisations and partners.<br>• Ensure that Durham Community Action retains organisational scale and resources that are sufficient to deliver realistic levels of service, whilst also reacting responsively to opportunities. |
| Business interruption | • Impact of pandemic e.g., Covid-19<br>• Loss of use of office premises due to flood, fire, storm damage, terrorism, vandalism etc<br>• Loss of IT services | • Business Continuity Plan updated with details of actions to be taken, and regularly tested.<br>• Health & Safety Risk Assessments, and staff provided with appropriate equipment to enable remote working.<br>• Use of IT systems e.g., video conferencing etc to maintain regular contact with clients, partners, and team members.<br>• Use of cloud services, and IT back-up systems and procedures to ensure that services can be quickly restored in the event of problems. |
| Loss of key Trustees, and loss of key staff and skills (in the face of reduced levels of funding, or because of illness / pandemic) | • Capacity for sustaining key relationships, and ability to work responsively.<br>• Resources to build intelligence and sustain the evidence base for influencing and shaping new work.<br>• Inability to fulfil key contractual obligations, resulting in possible reputational damage.<br>• Impact on strategic decision making and day to day activities | • Adopt smarter, less labour-intensive approaches to communications, information sharing and making resources available for beneficiaries.<br>• Ensure staff engagement and training programmes are in place, optimising specialist skills, and experience within the delivery team, ensuring that experienced staff are available to fill gaps in the event of the loss of key personnel.<br>• Use of trusted contractors to fulfil tasks on a temporary basis if required.<br>• Enabling closer co-working and collaboration between the charity's staff and partner staff members, thereby adding value to resources, and consolidating working relationships.<br>• Recruiting new Trustees to mitigate the loss of existing Trustees. |

**Plans for future periods**

The charity will continue to adapt and respond in a manner that is designed to meet our primary objectives. Objectives are reviewed annually, based on shared intelligence with our colleagues and partners in the VCSE, and regarding an evolving face of public services, local government, and policy.

As set out in the Reserves Policy, the Trustees have considered the implications for a changing landscape of public services, especially for health care, and the continuing evolution of systems for integrating health and social health care services. This is in the context of rebuilding civil society in the wake of service demand and funding pressures, coupled with a continuing fall back in confidence and ongoing economic uncertainty.
Over the course of the last three years, Senior Management and Trustees have been working proactively in dialogue with funders and commissioners. We have been collaborating on a more robust system for informing Commissioners where there are needs arising, and working with the VCSE to target resources more effectively.

2025/2026 marked the second year of a renewed three-year Grant Funding Deed, testament to the value placed upon VCSE infrastructure support. This has enabled us to work in partnership with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Durham County Council, including Public Health. The Grant Funding Deed (GFD) has been brought together by public sector commissioning partners as an investment into VCSE infrastructure support and development. This is intended to enable a more collaborative and trust-based approach to funding the sector in County Durham.

During 2025/2026, DCA continued to operate a hybrid working policy that enabled staff to split their time between home and office-based working, providing greater operational flexibility and directly benefiting DCA through savings on office running costs.

Demand for the charity's services remained high throughout the year, reflecting the continued need to support community groups, volunteers, and volunteering infrastructure organisations on issues such as fundraising and governance. DCA's Trustees are continuing to meet on a bi-monthly basis, to review budgets and cashflows and to act if required to continue within the parameters of the agreed budget.

DCA will also explore opportunities to secure additional funding that are a comfortable fit with the charity's remit and forward work plan.

**Structure, governance and management**

Durham Community Action Limited is a company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. The charity is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association that were adopted on 17 October 2013.

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission. Membership is open to any individual or organisation that meets the criteria specified in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Professor SJ Banks | |
| Mrs LC Bird | |
| Mrs P Buckley-Atkins | |
| Mrs KL Davison | |
| Mrs A Hawkes | |
| Mr ID Hunter Smart | |
| Mrs E Kilgannon MBE | |
| Mr MJ Litchfield | |
| Mr J Robinson | |
| Professor JFF Robinson | (Resigned 20 November 2025) |
| Mrs CA Smith | |
| Mrs JM Worters MBE | |
| Mr SK Bhowmick | (Appointed 20 November 2025) |

**Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**
The Trustees as charity trustees have control of the Charity and its property and funds, however there is no individual exercising significant control (PSC). All the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of a winding up. There must be a minimum of five Trustees and a maximum of 20 Trustees.

All the charity's Trustees are volunteers and provide their time freely. Expenses are offered to cover travel costs. Trustees attending appropriate conferences and networking activities for the charity may also be reimbursed for travel costs, conference fees, and occasional accommodation when an overnight stay is necessary. No Trustees benefit financially, contractually, or materially from their roles.

Our Trustees have continued to work with the Senior Management Team to monitor and review our policies and procedures, and to undertake a review of our Business Continuity Plan.

**Officers**
The honorary posts of Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer are elected by serving Trustees immediately after the Annual General Meeting.

**Organisation**
Currently membership of the Board of Trustees stands at 12. The Executive Committee meets bi-monthly, and on an ad hoc basis if the necessity arises. There is the facility to establish ad hoc task and finish sub-groups; for example Trustees and Staff collaborated during the year to review DCA's policies and procedures.

**Pay policy for senior staff**
Salary scales for senior staff are determined by the Trustees, having due regard to remuneration for similar roles within the VCSE sector. No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year.

**Induction and training of new trustees**
New Trustees undergo orientation meetings to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Executive Committee and decision-making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction process they meet key employees and other Trustees. All Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external and internal training events.

**Key management remuneration**
The Trustees hold overall responsibility for management of the organisation, its assets, staff, and funds. Responsibility for day-to-day management of the organisation, finance, employment of staff, and for providing support and resources to the Trustees to enable strategic planning, is delegated to the Executive Director. The Trustees appoint her to manage the operations of the charity and is an employee of the company. Despite the title, the Executive Director is neither a Director of the Company nor a Trustee of the Charity.

The Executive Director manages the charity with the support of a small Senior Management Team, comprising the Managers for Community Development, Community Support, and Volunteering. Governance and finance support are provided by an external contractor, with a good working knowledge of the business. Details of the Key Management Personnel and their costs applicable during 2025/26 are included in the accounts.

**Related parties**
The charity's work programme is primarily determined by the needs of the communities that it serves.

Wherever possible, DCA aligns its work with prevailing national, and local policies and priorities. We achieve this by working closely with a range of partners, including ACRE, County Durham Partnership, Durham County Council, the Office of the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner, and the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

DCA also works responsively with our colleagues in the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector within County Durham, and in various community-based networks and partnerships. As a result, close working relationships are maintained with a range of other organisations, although none meet the related parties' criteria as defined in company law:

- During 2025/26 DCA maintained a Funding Agreement with Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) to provide intelligence and information for Defra about areas of policy, as it affects rural communities on a regional and county-wide basis. Key priorities included affordable energy, rural health, rural life opportunities, and social enterprise development.

- The charity maintains a strong relationship with Durham County Council and is recognised by the Council as the primary VCSE infrastructure support organisation for County Durham. This provides the council with a single conduit for public sector investment into VCSE support services. During the year DCA worked particularly closely with Public Health, both Adult and Children's Services, Environment, Economic Regeneration, and the Transformation, Policy & Partnerships teams at Durham County Council. The Office of County Durham's Police & Crime Commissioner also contributed funds to support work with front line community groups and organisations, including volunteer development.

- Physical and mental health and wellbeing was an important theme during 2025/26. Working with the Integrated Care Board, and wider Integrated Care System (ICS) partners, we developed a programme of work to reinforce VCSE engagement in new and emerging governance structures for primary and secondary care.

- We were represented on and supported on a range of networks and partnerships including the County Durham Partnership Board, County Durham Economic Partnership, the Environment & Climate Change Partnership, the Health & Wellbeing Board, the North East Combined Authority, and the Safeguarding Children & Safeguarding Adults Partnerships,

- The Better Together VCS Forum (comprising 61 countywide or specialist VCSE organisations), the AiCD Partnership, the Community Growing and Food Network (comprising 167 organisations and individuals), and the Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum (comprising 603 organisations engaged in volunteering across the North East) were amongst the networks and organisations that we chaired or supported during the year.

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees, who are also the directors of Durham Community Action Limited for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' 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 affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

**Auditor**

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Robson Laidler Accountants Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

**Disclosure of information to auditor**

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Janice M Worters

Mrs JM Worters MBE
**Trustee**

Date: 17th September 2026

# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE MEMBERS OF DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Durham Community Action Limited (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 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 Companies Act 2006.

### 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 charity 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 statements 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 charity'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.

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, 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 charity'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 charitable company 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

The risk of material misstatement due to error or fraud has been assessed in conjunction with how internal controls may mitigate any such risk. These controls are reviewed as part of the audit by performing systems walkthroughs to ensure they are operating effectively. Analytical review and substantive testing is also performed on all material balances and therefore any instances of non-compliance should be identified or considered as insignificant. In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team;

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the industry and sector, including the legal and regulatory framework, in which the charity operates and how the charity complies with that legal and regulatory framework
- inquired with management and those charged with governance about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any know actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud
- discussed with management and those charged with governance any non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessments of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

The risk of management override of controls was also considered an area of potential misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included testing of manual journal entries and other adjustments and evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company'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 company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

NC

**Nicholas Cunningham MSc BSc FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**
For and on behalf of Robson Laidler Accountants Limited, Statutory Auditor
Fernwood House
Fernwood Road
Jesmond
Newcastle upon Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE2 1TJ
England
Date: 22-9-2026

# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026*

| Current financial year | Notes | Unrestricted funds 2026 £ | Restricted funds 2026 £ | Total 2026 £ | Total 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | | 450 | - | 450 | - |
| Charitable activities | 3 | - | 1,096,905 | 1,096,905 | 996,950 |
| Other trading activities | | 11,981 | - | 11,981 | 8,917 |
| Investments | | 31,819 | - | 31,819 | 40,578 |
| **Total income** | | 44,250 | 1,096,905 | 1,141,155 | 1,046,445 |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 18,070 | 1,116,913 | 1,134,983 | 1,152,645 |
| **Total expenditure** | | 18,070 | 1,116,913 | 1,134,983 | 1,152,645 |
| **Net movement in funds** | 6 | 26,180 | (20,008) | 6,172 | (106,200) |
| **Reconciliation of funds:** | | | | | |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2025 | | 495,108 | 294,964 | 790,072 | 896,272 |
| **Fund balances at 31 March 2026** | | 521,288 | 274,956 | 796,244 | 790,072 |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026*

| Prior financial year | Notes | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Total 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 3 | - | 996,950 | 996,950 |
| Other trading activities | | 8,917 | - | 8,917 |
| Investments | | 40,578 | - | 40,578 |
| **Total income** | | 49,495 | 996,950 | 1,046,445 |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 45,567 | 1,107,078 | 1,152,645 |
| **Total expenditure** | | 45,567 | 1,107,078 | 1,152,645 |
| **Net movement in funds** | 6 | 3,928 | (110,128) | (106,200) |
| **Reconciliation of funds:** | | | | |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2024 | | 491,180 | 405,092 | 896,272 |
| **Fund balances at 31 March 2025** | | 495,108 | 294,964 | 790,072 |

# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

## BALANCE SHEET

### *AS AT 31 MARCH 2026*

| | Notes | 2026 £ | 2026 £ | 2025 £ | 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Intangible assets | 10 | | 840 | | 1,260 |
| Tangible assets | 11 | | 11,269 | | 15,946 |
| | | | 12,109 | | 17,206 |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | 12 | 127,277 | | 109,435 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 669,109 | | 702,260 | |
| | | 796,386 | | 811,695 | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | 13 | (12,251) | | (38,829) | |
| **Net current assets** | | | 784,135 | | 772,866 |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 796,244 | | 790,072 |
| **The funds of the charity** | | | | | |
| Restricted income funds | 14 | | 274,956 | | 294,964 |
| Unrestricted funds | 15 | | 521,288 | | 495,108 |
| | | | 796,244 | | 790,072 |

The director acknowledges his responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 17 September 2026

Janice M. Worters

Mrs JM Worters MBE
**Trustee**

# DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026*

| | Notes | 2026 £ | 2026 £ | 2025 £ | 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cash flows from operating activities** | | | | | |
| Cash absorbed by operations | **21** | | (64,970) | | (211,167) |
| **Investing activities** | | | | | |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | - | | (2,358) | |
| Investment income received | | 31,819 | | 40,578 | |
| **Net cash generated from investing activities** | | | 31,819 | | 38,220 |
| **Net cash generated from financing activities** | | | - | | - |
| **Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents** | | | (33,151) | | (172,947) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | | 702,260 | | 875,207 |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at end of year** | | | 669,109 | | 702,260 |

## 1 Accounting policies

### Charity information

Durham Community Action Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 8 St. Stephens Court, Low Willington, Crook, County Durham, DL15 0BF, England.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Durham Community Action Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity entry under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have considered a period of 12 months from the balance sheet date and consider no further disclosures relating to the charity's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made.

### 1.2 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

### 1.3 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant;

- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance;

- Rental & other income are recognised on a receivable basis;

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

## 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

### 1.4 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 are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure includes VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income;

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

### 1.5 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill

Intangible assets acquired separately from a business are recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|---|---|
| Volunteering website | 25% straight line |

### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|---|---|
| Leasehold land and buildings | 25% straight line |
| Fixtures and fittings | 25% reducing balance/25% straight line |

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

**1 Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

**1.8 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

**1.9 Taxation**

As a charity, the company is exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

**1.10 Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the charity has a legal or constructive present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting end date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value. When a provision is measured at present value, the unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in net income/(expenditure) in the period in which it arises.

**1.11 Debtors/creditors due within one year**

Trade debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

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

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

Critical areas of judgement

In categorising leases as finance leases or operating leases, the Trustees make judgements as to whether significant risk and rewards or ownership have transferred to the charity as lessee.

In recognising income from projects, the trustees make judgements as to whether the conditions of income have been met.

## 3 Charitable activities

| | Support & Advisory 2026 | Community Development 2026 | Total 2026 | Total 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income from Charitable Activities | 826,360 | 270,545 | 1,096,905 | 996,950 |
| **Income from Charitable Activities** | | | | |
| ACRE | - | 103,260 | 103,260 | 86,972 |
| Durham County Council | 457,667 | 100,000 | 557,667 | 531,915 |
| Durham Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner | 31,000 | - | 31,000 | 10,000 |
| NE BIC | 4,583 | - | 4,583 | 18,000 |
| Voluntary Action Leeds | 25,561 | - | 25,561 | 38,467 |
| Rural Design Centre | - | 52,285 | 52,285 | 57,044 |
| Bloom Procurement Services | - | - | - | 15,675 |
| Point North Community Foundation | - | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Community Action Northumberland | 168,260 | - | 168,260 | 149,258 |
| VONNE | 7,839 | - | 7,839 | 34,842 |
| Other | 131,450 | - | 131,450 | 39,777 |
| | 826,360 | 270,545 | 1,096,905 | 996,950 |

Other includes grants totalling £Nil (2025: £2,800) from OASES, £Nil (2025: £6,479) from Innovate UK, £Nil (2025: £12,800) from The Ballinger Trust, £11,000 (2025:£11,000) from Cornforth Partnership, £Nil (2025:£6,000) from British Red Cross, £10,000 (2025:£Nil) from Newcastle University, £10,450 (2025: £Nil) from TEWV Foundation, £100,000 (2025:£Nil;) from NE & NC ICB Social Prescribing and £nil (2025: £698) from sundry funders.

## 4 Charitable activities

| | Total 2026 | Total 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 805,053 | 702,066 |
| Consultancy | 82,107 | 121,976 |
| Meeting expenses | 15,286 | 5,658 |
| Grants to small communities | 110,908 | 211,038 |
| | 1,013,354 | 1,040,738 |
| Share of support costs (see note 5) | 102,149 | 101,483 |
| Share of governance costs (see note 5) | 19,480 | 10,424 |
| | 1,134,983 | 1,152,645 |

## 5 Support costs

| | Support costs | Governance costs | 2026 | Support costs | Governance costs | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Depreciation | 5,097 | - | 5,097 | 7,638 | - | 7,638 |
| Office rent | 27,149 | - | 27,149 | 27,149 | - | 27,149 |
| Marketing and promotion | 60 | - | 60 | 180 | - | 180 |
| Cleaning and welfare | 3,389 | - | 3,389 | 3,453 | - | 3,453 |
| Electricity, gas and water | 10,060 | - | 10,060 | 11,353 | - | 11,353 |
| Repairs and renewals | 758 | - | 758 | 975 | - | 975 |
| Insurance | 2,620 | - | 2,620 | 2,393 | - | 2,393 |
| Staff travel and training | 14,725 | - | 14,725 | 11,237 | - | 11,237 |
| Printing, postage and telephone | 10,729 | - | 10,729 | 9,410 | - | 9,410 |
| Publications and subscriptions | 10,349 | - | 10,349 | 11,625 | - | 11,625 |
| Computer costs | 16,079 | - | 16,079 | 15,832 | - | 15,832 |
| Sundries | 1,134 | - | 1,134 | 238 | - | 238 |
| Legal and professional | - | 10,945 | 10,945 | - | 2,299 | 2,299 |
| Auditors remuneration | - | 8,535 | 8,535 | - | 8,125 | 8,125 |
| | 102,149 | 19,480 | 121,629 | 101,483 | 10,424 | 111,907 |
| Analysed between | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 102,149 | 19,480 | 121,629 | 101,483 | 10,424 | 111,907 |

## 6 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

| | 2026 £ | 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements | 8,535 | 8,125 |
| Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets | 4,677 | 7,218 |
| Amortisation of intangible assets | 420 | 420 |
| Operating lease charges | 27,149 | 27,149 |

## 7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2026 nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

## 8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

| | 2026 Number | 2025 Number |
|---|---|---|
| Executive director | 1 | 1 |
| Field workers | 18 | 17 |
| Administrator | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 20 | 19 |

**Employment costs**

| | 2026 £ | 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Wages and salaries | 692,387 | 613,666 |
| Social security costs | 78,686 | 58,746 |
| Other pension costs | 33,980 | 29,654 |
| | 805,053 | 702,066 |

**Key management remuneration**

The key management of the charity in the period comprised the Executive Director, Community Support Manager, Community Development Manager and the Volunteering Development Manager. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel for the year were £211,654 (2025 : £192,791).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

## 9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

## 10 Intangible fixed assets

| | Volunteering website |
|---|---|
| | £ |
| **Cost** | |
| At 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 | 19,680 |
| **Amortisation and impairment** | |
| At 1 April 2025 | 18,420 |
| Amortisation charged for the year | 420 |
| At 31 March 2026 | 18,840 |
| **Carrying amount** | |
| At 31 March 2026 | 840 |
| At 31 March 2025 | 1,260 |

## 11 Tangible fixed assets

| | Leasehold land and buildings | Fixtures and fittings | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| **Cost** | | | |
| At 1 April 2025 | 9,539 | 82,006 | 91,545 |
| At 31 March 2026 | 9,539 | 82,006 | 91,545 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | |
| At 1 April 2025 | 9,539 | 66,060 | 75,599 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | - | 4,677 | 4,677 |
| At 31 March 2026 | 9,539 | 70,737 | 80,276 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | |
| At 31 March 2026 | - | 11,269 | 11,269 |
| At 31 March 2025 | - | 15,946 | 15,946 |

## 12 Debtors

| **Amounts falling due within one year:** | **2026** | **2025** |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Other debtors | 934 | 970 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 126,343 | 108,465 |
| | 127,277 | 109,435 |

## 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Other creditors | 1,200 | 13,182 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 11,051 | 25,647 |
| | 12,251 | 38,829 |

## 14 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

| | | Movement in funds | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Balance at 1 April 2025 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Balance at 31 March 2026 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| ACRE/Defra funding | - | 42,585 | (42,585) | - |
| ACRE/Defra Rural Housing Enabler | - | 60,675 | (60,675) | - |
| Amicable | 8,002 | 25,561 | (33,563) | - |
| Community Buildings Energy Audit Small Grant Fund | 44,201 | - | (44,201) | - |
| Community Spaces Partnership | 8,538 | 73,186 | (67,128) | 14,596 |
| Destination Capacity to support Mental Health Transformation | 110,337 | - | (67,337) | 43,000 |
| Durham Police & Crime Commissioner | - | 10,000 | (10,000) | - |
| Durham Together - VCS Employability Programme | - | 11,000 | (11,000) | - |
| Durham Victim Expert by experience | - | 6,000 | (6,000) | - |
| Enterprising Durham | - | 4,583 | (4,583) | - |
| Health Determinants in research | 5,642 | 123,667 | (53,308) | 76,001 |
| Healthy Communities & Social Prescribing place based engagement & support | - | 7,839 | (7,839) | - |
| NICRE Innovation project | - | 10,000 | (10,000) | - |
| Poverty Truth Commission | 23,884 | 115,000 | (119,123) | 19,761 |
| Rural Durham Community Research Network | 38,696 | 49,472 | (53,258) | 34,910 |
| Rural North East Climate Action Plan | 28,843 | 95,074 | (81,878) | 42,039 |
| Social Prescribing Development & Support | - | 100,000 | (85,000) | 15,000 |
| Volunteer Development Strategy | - | 15,000 | (15,000) | - |
| Volunteering & Infrastructure Support | 25,221 | 334,000 | (330,217) | 29,004 |
| Grouped restricted funds | 1,600 | 13,263 | (14,218) | 645 |
| | 294,964 | 1,096,905 | (1,116,913) | 274,956 |

**14 Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

ACRE / Defra funding
Provision of strategic support to rural communities, sharing learning on sustainable funding models, and providing access to local intelligence.

ACRE / Defra Rural Housing Enabler
This Defra funded initiative aims to boost the supply of new rural affordable housing by providing access to a service that supports landowners and communities to identify sites, and works with housing associations and local authorities to deliver high quality homes that meet local housing need through small scale schemes.

Amicable
This project is supporting volunteers working with the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner's Community Peer Mentors initiative to support the recovery of vulnerable and isolated people who have been affected by significant life-changing events including crime and anti-social behaviour.

Community Buildings Energy Audit Small Grant Fund
Small grant scheme that will assist community buildings groups to implement energy audit improvements recommended by Durham County Council's BEEP energy audit team.

Community Spaces Partnership
This partnership project, supported by the Communities Fund is supporting DCA to provide community buildings in County Durham with information, advice, and guidance, and grant funding to assist with building improvements.

Destination Capacity to support Mental Health Transformation
Funded by the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, this aims to provide a dedicated resource in each new community Mental Health hub area to increase the capacity of VCSE organisations to deliver interventions.

Durham Police & Crime Commissioner grant
Provision of advice and signposting to organisations providing specialist support for people, including volunteering, mutual aid groups, link workers, and assistance with liaison meetings & on-line training.

Durham Together - VCS Employability Programme
Provision of volunteering advice and support as part of the lottery funded Durham Together project. Delivered in partnership with Cornforth Partnership (lead partner), the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Wheels 2 Work County Durham and WEA North East and Cumbria, to provide community learning and bespoke training to support individuals to increase their confidence, improve their health and wellbeing and progress into further learning or sustainable employment and volunteering.

Durham Victim Expert by Experience
Funding to develop a process for ensuring that the authentic voice of experts by experience can be utilised across the work of Durham OPCC.

Enterprising Durham
Funding for the provision of enterprise animation and light touch business support and signposting services on behalf of North East Business & Innovation Centre.

Health Determinants in Research
Working in partnership with Durham University and Durham County Council to deliver this project, which aims to use research and innovation to tackle the causes of unfair differences in health outcomes across County Durham. The aim is to place inclusive research, evaluation, and innovation practice at the heart of the design and delivery of public services, and to ensure that communities are fully and equitably engaged in public health policy research activity.

**14 Restricted funds**

**(Continued)**

Healthy Communities & Social Prescribing place-based engagement & support
Funded by the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, and administered by VONNE, this project is building sustainable community-centred approaches that connect and promote public health messages, support communities, enhance relationships with the voluntary sector, and provide local intelligence to inform planning.

NICRE Innovation Project
The project has worked with NICRE to build capacity in rural communities, community spaces, businesses and individuals, involving cross-sector representation, demonstrating social return on investment and stimulating a diverse portfolio of innovations.

Poverty Truth Commission
This project aims to better understand the challenges faced by residents living in poverty in County Durham, and to come up with practical changes and solutions to some of those challenges. It aims to bring about changes for individuals and organisations at a policy and systems level, and alter the ways people think about poverty.

Rural Durham Community Research Network
Collaboration with Durham University and the Rural Design Centre, to develop and deliver a 5-year project that will provide a community research network for County Durham, giving local communities a voice. The project is funded by The Young Foundation.

Rural North East Climate Action Plan
Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, CAIRN aims to support small communities to take charge of their energy needs and find practical, long-term solutions that benefit everyone. The project is being delivered in partnership with Community Action Northumberland (CAN), the Rural Design Centre (RDC) and National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE).

Social Prescribing Development & Support
This initiative, funded by the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, supports DCA to develop and expand the Social Prescribing Link Worker (SPLW) network, providing peer support for SPLW's, raising awareness, and embedding social prescribing into teams working across and within GP practices.

Volunteer Development Strategy
Funding to provide bespoke support to the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner of Durham (OPCC) with their Volunteer Development Strategy, Volunteer Management and Training Programme, building up to accreditation of the County Durham Volunteer Kitemark across the whole of the organisation.

Volunteering & Infrastructure Support
Grant funding agreement with Durham County Council for the provision of support services to the Voluntary & Community Sector across County Durham.

**Grouped Restricted Funds**

Community Energy fund
This project is providing funding for an assessor to undertake a study examining the feasibility of installing electric vehicle charging equipment at 5 community buildings across Teesdale.

County Durham Faith Network
This is funds held on behalf of County Durham Faith Network.

Covid-19 Vaccination Centre Volunteer Expenses
Administration of a fund to provide travel expenses to volunteers assisting at Covid 19 vaccination and lateral testing centres.

## 14 Restricted funds

(Continued)

TEWV Foundation trust
Building on the Amicable initiative aiming to recruit, engage and retain involvement with 30 people released from prison by offering people bespoke volunteering. This is a research based project examining the barriers to maintaining contact with people following their release and considering how to encourage participation in research programmes for those through the prison gates.

VCS Emergencies Partnership preparedness
Administered via the British Red Cross Society, this is funding DCA to help local organisations ensure they are prepared to work together to assist local emergencies. There is no carry forward balance.

## 15 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

| | At 1 April 2025 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | At 31 March 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General funds | 495,108 | 44,250 | (18,070) | 521,288 |

**Previous year:**

| | At 1 April 2024 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | At 31 March 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General funds | 491,180 | 49,495 | (45,567) | 495,108 |

## 16 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted funds 2026 | Restricted funds 2026 | Total 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| **At 31 March 2026:** | | | |
| Intangible fixed assets | 840 | - | 840 |
| Tangible assets | 11,269 | - | 11,269 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 509,179 | 274,956 | 784,135 |
| | 521,288 | 274,956 | 796,244 |

## 16 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 | Restricted funds 2025 | Total 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **At 31 March 2025:** | £ | £ | £ |
| Intangible fixed assets | 1,260 | - | 1,260 |
| Tangible assets | 15,946 | - | 15,946 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 477,902 | 294,964 | 772,866 |
| | 495,108 | 294,964 | 790,072 |

## 17 Operating lease commitments

**Lessee**

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Within one year | 1,759 | 1,759 |
| Between two and five years | 2,639 | 7,035 |
| In over five years | - | 14,950 |
| | 4,398 | 23,744 |

## 18 Retirement Benefits

Durham Community Action participates in The Pension Trust's Flexible Retirement Plan, a defined contribution scheme. The plan is funded and contracted out of the state scheme.

The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The contributions payable by the charity expensed to income and expenditure amounted to £33,980 (2025: £29,654).

Contributions totalling £Nil (2025: £287) were payable to the fund at the year-end.

## 19 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2026 nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

## 20 Legal Status of the Charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10.

21 **Cash absorbed by operations**

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year | 6,172 | (106,200) |
| **Adjustments for:** | | |
| Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities | (31,819) | (40,578) |
| Amortisation and impairment of intangible assets | 420 | 420 |
| Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets | 4,677 | 7,218 |
| **Movements in working capital:** | | |
| (Increase) in debtors | (17,842) | (63,228) |
| (Decrease) in creditors | (26,578) | (8,799) |
| **Cash absorbed by operations** | (64,970) | (211,167) |