



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

**From 8 April 2024**  
**Period end date**

**Period start date To 7 April 2025**

**Charity name: City of Durham Trust**

**Charity registration number: 502132**

### Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>(1) To preserve, conserve and enhance for the benefit of the public the natural and built environment of the City of Durham and its surroundings, including its green belt, buildings and features of architectural and historic value, and areas of natural beauty and interest.</p> <p>(2) To engage and inform communities and promote their co-operation in the preservation, conservation and protection of the natural and built environment of the City of Durham and its surroundings, including its Green Belt.</p> <p>(3) To encourage and celebrate the highest sustainable standards in planning, design, landscape and architecture in the City of Durham and its surroundings.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Every week Trustees scrutinise all the relevant planning applications validated by the local planning authority and respond as appropriate. We focus on ensuring

<p>activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.</p>		<p>conformity with the policies of the <i>NPPF</i>, the <i>County Durham Plan</i> and the <i>Durham City Neighbourhood Plan</i>. These are designed to protect the historic and natural heritage of the City of Durham and its surroundings. We work closely with the City of Durham Parish Council on these matters.</p> <p>The Trust holds open meetings, including an AGM, three or four times per year to inform members of the public about planning and heritage-related issues. We also provide members with bulletins three or four times per year giving details of our activities and providing information about the work of related bodies. Our website <a href="http://durhamcity.org">durhamcity.org</a> also contains a great deal of current information.</p>
<p>Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit</p>	<p>Para 1.18</p>	<p>The Trustees do have regard to this guidance.</p>

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
<p>Policy on grant making</p>	<p>Para 1.38</p>	
<p>Policy on social investment including program related investment</p>	<p>Para 1.38</p>	
<p>Contribution made by volunteers</p>	<p>Para 1.38</p>	
<p>Other</p>		

**Achievements and Performance**

	SORP reference	
--	----------------	--

<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>The Trust's responses to planning applications have been influential in improving some and causing others to be refused.</p> <p>The Trust works closely with related bodies such as the Durham Museum, Old Durham Gardens, the Wear Rivers Trust and the National Trust which recently acquired Crook Hall, an important heritage site in the City.</p> <p>It is also represented on the WHS Strategic Partnership Board of the Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site.</p> <p>The Trust has co-sponsored with the Parish Council <i>The Durham City Heritage Trail</i>, a walking guide for the City's rich heritage which is freely available to residents and visitors.</p> <p>All these activities are designed both to raise the profile of the Trust and also to involve as many citizens as possible in issues that affect our historical and natural heritage.</p>
--	------------------	---

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

<p>Achievements against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Investment performance against objectives</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Other</p>		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The Trust's financial position is sound as can be seen from our annual accounts.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, sufficient to cover for approximately one year the Trust's management and administration and support costs.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The free reserves currently stand at £16,209 (2021 £14,369) which more than meets the criteria laid down by the Trustees.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document ( <a href="#">trust deed</a> , <a href="#">royal charter</a> )	Para 1.25	Trust deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. <a href="#">unincorporated association</a> , <a href="#">CIO</a> )	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are elected at the AGM in accordance with paragraph 13 of the constitution.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	City of Durham Trust
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	502132
Charity's principal address	Blackett, Hart and Pratt, LLP Aire House Mandale Business Park Durham, DH1 1TH



## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A
-----

## Other optional information

--

## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

--	--

Full name(s)

John Joseph Lowe

Francis William Pritchard

Position (eg Secretary,  
Chair, etc)

Chair

Secretary/Treasurer

Date

29th January 2026



## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 8th April 2024	To	Period end date 7th April 2025
---------------------	-------------------------------------	----	-----------------------------------

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Subscriptions & Donations	2,155	-	-	2,155	2,385
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	500	-	-	500	-
Publication Sales	1,250	-	-	1,250	1,350
Interest	262	-	-	262	125
Insurance Claim	-	-	-	-	1,870
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>4,167</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,167</b>	<b>5,730</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,167</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,167</b>	<b>5,730</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Cost of sales	-	-	-	-	-
Direct expenditure on charitable purposes	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions and grants to other bodies	640	-	-	640	1,127
Management and member services	4,092	-	-	4,092	2,657
Governance and professional fees	695	-	-	695	341
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>5,427</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,427</b>	<b>4,126</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>5,427</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,427</b>	<b>4,126</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 1,261</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,261</b>	<b>1,604</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>17,469</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,469</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>16,209</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,209</b>	<b>1,604</b>

### Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Co-operative Bank current account	2,358	-	-
	Virgin Money charity savings account	13,851	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>16,209</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

29/01/2026