CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 8 April 2025 Period start date To 7 April 2026 Period end date

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	(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. (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. (3) To encourage and celebrate the highest sustainable standards in planning, design, landscape and architecture in the City of Durham and its surroundings.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in 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 conformity with the policies of the *NPPF,* the *County Durham Plan* and the *Durham*

accounts.		*City Neighbourhood Plan.* 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. 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 two or three times per year giving details of our activities and providing information about the work of related bodies. Our website durhamcity.org also contains a great deal of current information.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees do have regard to this guidance.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to	Para 1.20	The Trust's responses to planning applications have been influential in improving some and causing others to be refused. The Trust works closely with related bodies such as the Durham Museum, Old Durham Gardens, the Wear Rivers Trust and the

the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.		National Trust owns Crook Hall, an important heritage site in the City. It is also represented on the WHS Strategic Partnership Board of the Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site. The Trust has co-sponsored with the Parish Council *The Durham City Heritage* Trail, a walking guide for the City's rich heritage which is freely available to residents and visitors. 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.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

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 at least one year the Trust's management and administration and support costs.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The free reserves currently stand at £16,022 (2026 £16,072) 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 (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	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

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	John Ashby			
2	Sue Childs	Vice-Chair		
3	Tim Clark			
4	Roger Cornwell			
5	Allan Gemmill	Chair from 26/9/26		
6	Adrian Green			
7	Chris Hugill			
8	Michael Hurlow			
9	John Lowe	Chair until 26/9/26		
10	Matthew Phillips			
11	Francis Pritchard	Secretary/ Treasurer		
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
N/A		

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)	Allan Gemmill	Francis William Pritchard
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary/Treasurer
Date	October 2026	

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
City of Durham Trust	502132

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	8th April 2025		7th April 2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions & Donations	2,309	-	-	2,309	2,155
Gift Aid	753			753	
Legacies					
Publication Sales	1,250	-	-	1,250	1,250
Interest	136	-	-	136	126
Insurance Claim					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	4,449	-	-	4,449	3,530
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,449	-	-	4,449	3,530
A3 Payments					
Cost of sales	-	-	-	-	-
Direct expenditure on charitable purposes	242	-	-	242	-
Subscriptions and grants to other bodies	1,346	-	-	1,346	640
Management and member services	2,611	-	-	2,611	4,092
Governance and professional fees	300	-	-	300	695
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,499	-	-	4,499	5,427
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,499	-	-	4,499	5,427
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 50	-	-	- 50	- 1,897
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,072	-	-	16,072	-
Cash funds this year end	16,022	-	-	16,022	- 1,897

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Co-operative Bank current account	16,022	-	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,022	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK