

Company Registration No. 01946604 (England and Wales)

THE BIRMINGHAM SETTLEMENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

(Registered Charity Number 517303)

The Birmingham Settlement

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The Birmingham Settlement

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Reference and Administrative information

Charity registration number: 517303

Company number: 01946604

Trustees

Mr Matthew Gregson	(Chair)
Mr Stuart Roberts	
Mr Michael Burgess	
Mr Alex Ballinger MP	
Ms Sophie Skellern	(Appointed 7 July 2025)
Mr Rodney Garnes	(Resigned 30 May 2025)
Mr Christopher Etheridge	(Resigned 5 December 2024)
Councillor J L B Cotton	(Resigned 5 December 2024)
Manisha Sharma	(Resigned 5 December 2024)

All trustees were elected by members at an Annual General Meeting and served for the full year except where otherwise indicated.

Chief Executive & Company Secretary

Mr M Holcombe

Registered Office

Birmingham Settlement
Sports & Community Centre
600 Kingstanding Road
Birmingham
B44 9SH

Auditors

Thomas & Young
Carleton House
266-268 Stratford Road
Shirley
Solihull
B90 3BD

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC
114-116 Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 3BD

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Structure Governance and Management***Governing document***

Established in 1899, Birmingham Settlement is a registered charity under the Charities Act 1960.

Today, Birmingham Settlement is a charitable company limited by guarantee; incorporated on 11 September 1985, having no share capital, granted charitable status on 21 March 1986, it was established under its Memorandum of Association which sets out the objectives and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees

The trustees of the charity are also directors for the purposes of company law and referred to collectively as the Board of Trustees and individually as trustees through this report.

The Board of Trustees consists of up to twelve elected, three co-opted and two representative trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of three years, one third of elected trustees resigning each year and being eligible for re-election. The Board may co-opt up to three trustees to serve for a period defined by the Board up to a maximum three-year term. Birmingham City Council has the right to appoint two representative trustees. Co-opted and representative trustees carry the same duties and responsibilities as elected trustees.

Trustees seek to recruit new members to the Board from the communities it serves and from people with skills the Board considers appropriate and in the best interests of the charity. Recruitment is through membership, by word of mouth, partners, via service delivery experience and member nomination/election. Potential trustees are approached with a view to observing Board meetings and learning about the charity before formally joining via co-option or election at the Annual General Meeting.

During the year under review, one new trustee was appointed with three standing down at the AGM and one later.

Trustees' Induction and Training

The charity aims for its Board to include representatives of the communities it serves, those with relevant experience, skills and knowledge required to manage the legal duties, and obligations required of trustees.

Potential/new trustees are interviewed by existing trustees, normally the chair and one other, who explain the workings of the charity and its management. They are also taken on a conducted tour of the activities of the Settlement by one or more senior staff members. Each new trustee is introduced to members of staff and provided with information including copies of the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, its latest annual accounts and other information deemed appropriate.

Governance

During the year under review the Board of Trustees continued to review its policies, processes and working practices.

Risk Management

The charity maintains a risk register identifying risks to which the charity could be exposed. The risk register is reviewed on a regular basis; impact and likelihood are discussed with management with actions planned to minimise identified risks. Actions are recorded in the register for ongoing review and action.

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 For the year ended 31 March 2025

Organisational Structure

The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees which is responsible for formulating strategies and policies including the approval of budgets and annual accounts. Some tasks are covered by a committee structure made up of trustees and members of staff. Committees oversee various activities of the charity and exercise powers delegated by the Board. Committees have their own terms of reference and report to the Board. The Board of Trustees will continue to review the suitability of the committee structure to ensure it meets the organisation needs and those of its stakeholders.

Trustees have delegated day-to-day control of the charity's operations to the Chief Executive assisted by a team of managers.

Objectives of the charity

In shaping the charity's objectives and in planning any future activities the trustees have referred to guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. In particular, they have considered how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives set.

The principal aims of the charity continue to be:

- a) the relief of poverty, distress, and hardship.
- b) the furtherance of health.
- c) the advancement of education and vocation training.
- d) the promotion of social rehabilitation and resettlement.
- e) the promotion of the physical, intellectual, social, and moral welfare of the community; and
- f) the provision of recreational facilities in the interest of social welfare.

During the year under review the charity continued to combat disadvantage and discrimination and to foster change and innovation by providing independent services to help empower local communities and individuals.

Strategic Objectives

The Settlement's Board and Staff teams regularly review the charity's strategic objectives in line with changing, emerging, and presenting needs. This ensures the charity's work is clear and correctly focused; in particular, as we look to build and further develop our asset base over the next 3 – 5 years.

Our strategic objectives are therefore split into five key areas:

- To improve financial resilience for people and communities
- To build wellbeing for individuals and communities
- To develop people's skills, confidence, and voice
- To build environmental awareness, knowledge, and action
- To build and maintain a sustainable organisation.

1. Financial resilience

Needed now more than ever, we have a long history of delivering and developing money advice services. Many of the areas where we work score heavily on the indices of deprivation for all sorts of reasons. Our mission is to create opportunity and choice and to put it bluntly, if people are worried about bills, rent arrears, buying school uniforms, or simply putting food on the table, they are not able to focus on building opportunity and so choice for either themselves or their community. By providing timely and professional money advice services we can give practical advice and support to alleviate at least some of the pressure and stresses facing those struggling to manage. Whether it be debt management plans, benefit claims, grant applications, budgeting skills – our money advice services can be a starting point in creating the right environment for people to move on with their lives.

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2. Wellbeing

While the title 'wellbeing' in the context we think of today is relatively new, as with money advice, we have a long history of providing wellbeing services including the development and delivery of specialist workshops and courses to help build individual and community wellbeing, covering a range of issues such as mindfulness, nutrition, sleep, gratitude, mental health awareness, stress awareness, nature and wellbeing, social connection and many others. Whether through arts, sports, dance, healthy eating or similar services, the promotion of wellbeing is key to ensuring that people are physically and mentally in a position to take advantage of presenting opportunities and so live happy, healthier lives. We have therefore adopted the Five Ways to Wellbeing Principles and added our own sixth principle – be safe! Therefore, our wellbeing principles are:

- Connect.
- Be active.
- Take notice – be mindful.
- Keep learning.
- Give to others.
- Be safe.

3. Developing people

Following on, if our people and communities are financially stable and feeling happier and healthier, they are in a better position to learn and achieve including training, employment, and greater community involvement – building voice to influence the services and environments around them, whether that be setting up community groups, starting a micro-business or simply attending forums and taking part in discussion about their area. However, our people often need further support to help them develop the confidence and skills to do those things and with that in mind, as well as regular employment support and digital skills training, we have and are developing more grassroots training to equip people with the skills they need to make a difference. We deliver a wide and growing range of 'starter' and 'follow-on' courses for professionals and community; from disability and mental health awareness and wellbeing to professional boundaries, from first aid to setting up a community group, as well as core courses such as Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Safeguarding and similar.

4. Environmental awareness, knowledge, and action

Our impact on the environment is in the news daily and it is critical for all our futures that we take steps to reduce and reverse that impact. Using our assets, particularly our open spaces at the Birmingham Settlement Nature & Wellbeing Centre by Edgbaston Reservoir and our large Sports & Community Centre in Kingstanding, we have an opportunity to work with partners to show what we can do as individuals and communities to adapt and learn from the past, to improve the prospects for sustainable futures as well as improving our own immediate environments; including learning more about how to grow, care for, and nurture the resources, spaces, and areas where we live. Our work on environmental awareness is an important part of our objectives around the furtherance of health and the promotion of welfare of the community.

5. Sustainable organisation

To meet the above objectives, we need the resources and financial backing in place to make it happen and as such, our fifth strategic objective is to make sure the Settlement is viable and sustainable long-term. We are aware that reductions in public spending in recent years have had a significant impact on the sector, including the Settlement. We must be robust, enterprising, and SMART in the way we do things – we must be fleet of foot and adaptable to survive in difficult and challenging environments. While we will always want to be involved in statutory funding where we can influence and push for positive change, we also want to work more closely with others – in particular trusts and foundations who share our vision and where we already have a number of positive partnerships on which to build. We also want and need to grow earned income and we have a number of ways of doing that including asset development. Ideally, we are aiming to achieve a 3-way split between statutory, donated, and earned income, which we believe will give the voice, partnerships, and security we need to move forwards.

The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Review of activities

The year under review has been a busy and productive year for the Settlement, but also a year of further change as we continue to build and invest in our owned assets.

The notes below provide more detail, first on service delivery to people, second, on our asset development work as we continue to build for the future.

Money Advice:

Free, face-to-face money advice is an essential service to those struggling to cope with money issues. Our professionally trained and Financial Conduct Authority regulated Money Advice Team continues to deliver a wide range of effective solutions to those facing financial issues, services that are needed now more than ever as the cost-of-living crisis continues and deepens pushing more people into financial hardship. Increasingly, we are supporting people who were previously classed as 'just about managing' but who are now facing significant financial challenges due to circumstances beyond their control. Unfortunately, due to exceptionally high demand, we have been unable to offer traditional open-door drop-in sessions as in previous years, instead, focusing more on community outreach and appointments. Recognising the wider need for financial literacy and early intervention we have also placed a stronger focus on developing and delivering specialist money advice training for frontline staff working in community settings across the city. This has helped to broaden awareness, build skills, and improve access to vital services for those in need and we are committed to expanding this area to increase our reach and impact.

Throughout the year, we supported large numbers of clients in need of debt and welfare benefits advice, providing essential help at critical moments. Many of the individuals and families we work with face significant barriers to accessing support, ranging from language and literacy challenges to poor mental or physical health, lack of access to IT, or feelings of fear, stigma, or shame.

These barriers often prevent people from seeking help until they are already in crisis. As a result, we regularly work with clients experiencing extreme hardship, unable to pay rent, afford food, or access essential funds. Without timely intervention, such situations can quickly escalate into eviction and homelessness. We also saw a notable rise in isolated families being referred to us with complex physical and mental health needs. These cases often require longer-term, intensive support and close collaboration between our team and partner organisations.

Navigating the benefits system also remains a major challenge for many. Online applications for Universal Credit continue to be difficult for those without digital access or confidence, and the process of applying for benefits like Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is particularly complex, even overwhelming, for those unfamiliar with the system.

Our team offers a wide range of services and works closely with other projects across the organisation to deliver a truly holistic approach. We recognise that individuals rarely face a single issue, financial difficulties are often linked with wider challenges such as isolation, poor mental health, or a lack of community connection. That's why our support goes beyond advice alone.

While money and debt advice often serve as the first point of contact, it is frequently just the beginning of a client's journey with us. From there, many go on to access other programmes we offer, such as Ageing Well, Family Support, Wellbeing activities, Training & Learning, or our Little Settlers: Stay, Learn & Play initiative.

By addressing the full picture, we not only help people resolve immediate financial issues and maximise income, but we also support long-term improvements in mental health, confidence, and social connection. For many, this pathway leads to re-engagement with peers, family, and the wider community.

Alongside one-to-one advice, we also deliver a growing programme of financial literacy workshops and training, designed both for clients and frontline staff. These sessions range from basic money management to more advanced support on benefits and debt, building skills and resilience and playing an important role in preventing future crises.

The Birmingham Settlement TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Throughout the year, our work underwent regular quality assurance processes. We're proud to report that, even under significant pressure, we successfully met all audit requirements. Despite the consistently high demand for our services, maintaining quality has remained at the heart of everything we do. Our professional team of advisers continued to receive regular training and development in line with Advice Quality Standards, the Institute of Money Advisers, Child Poverty Action Group, Money Advice Trust and other relevant quality frameworks.

In terms of numbers, our Money Advice Team supported more than 5,364 people during the year. Of the more than £6.6 million recorded debt presented by clients, we were successful in getting more than £3.08 million either written off or rescheduled, enabling more affordable repayments (46% of debt presented was rescheduled/written off). Through our support with benefit applications and challenges to negative benefit decisions, we helped to increase recorded household income by £1,436,083, with an additional £145,262 recorded in lump sum payments, giving clients the ability to manage their finances better. We continued to support clients facing potential eviction from their homes by helping more than 489 people negotiate repayment of rent or mortgage arrears, setting up sustainable payment plans acceptable to both tenants and landlords/mortgage providers for the long-term. We also helped 1,303 clients access hardship grants to support them through immediate crisis, including 80 awards from our own small hardship fund.

Through our work in prisons and the indispensable role in supporting people to work through financial difficulties (the biggest cause of re-offending), we continued to provide advice during pre-sentencing, remand, in prison and pre-release on licence. This year we saw 863 clients from 12 prisons (reducing to 4 contracted prisons closer to our bases from July 2024) presenting over £3.9 million of debt with over £2.86 million written off or rescheduled. Our work included both face-to-face and free and impartial telephone advice; we believe that early and accessible advice plays a crucial role in helping people understand their financial obligations and avoid the serious consequences of unmanaged debt.

The year under review was exceptionally busy, with growing demand and increasing pressure on our services due to the continued cost-of-living crisis. Despite these challenges, our Money Advice Team delivered **strong outcomes** for clients during a time of urgent need. We supported individuals and families facing complex financial situations, helping many to stabilise their circumstances, reduce or manage debt, access essential benefits, and avoid crisis situations like eviction or homelessness.

Throughout the year, we recorded **numerous success stories**, which clearly demonstrate the value of our work and the real, lasting difference it has made in improving people's lives. These outcomes highlight not only the effectiveness of our advice, but also the dedication and resilience of our team in responding to the needs of the community.

Two examples of our work are given below:

Case study one:

Background:

Mr. X was referred to our team through a foodbank. Mr X who was initially reluctant to engage, presented as a single male near retirement age in receipt of Universal Credit at £370 per calendar month from which he paid bedroom tax for one additional bedroom in his property. Mr. X had health issues and multiple debts to the value of £27k. He also stated his gas cooker was leaking and he had no money to buy a replacement.

The Action:

Our team successfully applied for 'Breathing Space' putting a 60-day hold on interest, charges, and enforcement of all debts. A full benefits check was carried out, including consideration of Mr Xs' age and health issues, which established that Mr X would be better off transferring from Universal Credit to a State Retirement Pension and that he may be entitled to Attendance Allowance and the Severe Disability Component for Pension Credit. Our team supported Mr X with his applications which were successful and resulted in a State Retirement Pension of £218 per week, Attendance Allowance at £108.55 per week, including the Severe Disability Component at £81.50 per week. This meant that Mr X was better off by £1,262.20 per calendar month. In addition, we assisted Mr X with a £200 application to the Household Support Fund to help with immediate issues, and an application to the George Fentham Hardship Fund for a new cooker, both were successful.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Regarding the debts, our team went through the options available to Mr X who opted to apply for a Debt Relief Order via support from our DRO Intermediary. This froze the debts and unless Mr Xs' circumstances change in the next 12 months, will be written off leaving Mr X debt free.

Through the work of our Money Advice Team there has been a significant improvement in Mr X mental health and wellbeing.

Case study two:**Background:**

Ms R, a single British African aged 71 with long-term health conditions affecting mobility and daily living self-referred to our team having heard about our services through word-of-mouth. Ms R was a social housing tenant struggling on low-income comprising Pension Credit and Housing Benefit. Ms R presented with 3 non-priority debts from 2017 totalling to £18,285. She stated these were accrued by her non-dependent daughter fraudulently using Ms R as a guarantor without her knowledge or consent. The daughter then defaulted on all 3 agreements leaving Ms R liable. Ms R initially attempted to dispute the debts herself and then approached other organisations for assistance but was turned away.

The debts had been impacting her mental health and overall well-being since 2017.

The Action:

Whilst our team assisted Ms R with the debts presented, we also looked to maximise income. We applied for the Big Difference Scheme through Severn Trent Water successfully reducing Ms Rs' water bills. We successfully applied for Attendance Allowance based on Ms Rs' long-term health conditions which was awarded indefinitely at the higher rate of £108.55 p/w, equivalent to £470.38 per month and £5,644.56 per annum. We also successfully applied for Local Welfare Provision support of £50 and to the Household Support Fund for £200 as interim financial support enabling the client to manage immediate priority bills.

Regarding the debts, we reported all debts to Action Fraud to declare on Ms Rs' behalf that the debts were obtained fraudulently without Ms R's knowledge or consent. We also reported the debts to the Information Commissioner's Office for assistance with a Subject Access Request. One debt was written off by the original creditor following our intervention, and Ms R opted for a Debt Relief Order which was approved for the remaining debts. In total, the full amount of £18,285 was written off following our team's intervention.

Ms R said she was overwhelmed by the support she got from our team holistically when just presenting debt issues, especially when she had been turned away from other organisations. Ms R said she can now focus on her health and live peacefully.

Little Settlers (Stay Learn & Play):

Little Settlers offers free structured support for parents with children aged under five. Sessions are delivered from our Nature & Wellbeing Centre by Edgbaston Reservoir, and our Sports & Community Centre in Kingstanding. Both sites are located in areas scoring high on the indices of deprivation, with the Nature & Wellbeing Centre located in the constituency of Ladywood which has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the UK, and the Sports & Community Centre located in Kingstanding, a recognised 'left behind' ward as reported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Little Settlers ensures parents have a safe and stimulating environment for their children to learn through play; a space for parents to help improve their child's interaction and communication with adults and other children and to enable parents to discuss issues / tips / advice around parenting and children's development. It also enables us to upskill families by attending workshops where engagement with their child is encouraged and contributes to sustained learning objectives for the home environment.

Sessions at the Nature & Wellbeing Centre focus on nature and environmental learning, with the Sports & Community Centre focusing more on being active and 'sports' related activities. During the year, we delivered:

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For the year ended 31 March 2025

- Nature & Wellbeing – 51 sessions, footfall 1,274 made up of 821 children and 453 adults.
- Sports & Community Centre – 90 sessions, footfall 1,822 made up of 1,066 children and 756 adults.
- Total, 141 sessions delivered at the two sites, a footfall of 3,096 made up of 1,897 children and 1,209 adults.

In addition to the above, we delivered a range of activities and events during the school holidays including arts and crafts, and nature activities alone and in partnership with a range of providers.

Youth work (RISE):

We have been gradually renewing and developing our youth offer (RISE) including as we moved through the year under review while we continued to develop and invest in our sites, in particular our Sports & Community Centre where through the autumn and spring we undertook a major renewal and refurb of the outside sports pitch along with internal works to the Upper Hall and Sports Hall and work to grow and embed our Community Gym. Those works limited our ability to build too much on our youth work, but we are now in a much stronger position to build and sustain our offer, utilising our facilities to engage and partner with young people in our areas to reboot and freshen our RISE programme; including the range, way, and types of activity we deliver to ensure we maximise reach and impact. This work is ongoing as we continue to invest in our assets to build safe, accessible (time and physical), open, and welcoming facilities where we can engage and listen to young people to ensure they drive and lead what we do in terms of our youth offer, so what we do is truly what our young people need and want.

Despite the works and changes during the year under review, we delivered 50 Family Sports sessions to encourage young people and their families to take part in shared activities, with a footfall of 1,068, 25 Craft Crew sessions with a footfall of 396, and hosted a range of partner programmes and events including one-offs and regulars, such as our partnership with the Panthers Judo Club who delivered 46 sessions with a footfall of 2,484. In addition, 243 young people were provided with money advice and support via our Money Advice Team.

Ageing Well:

Our Ageing Well Programme is a valuable resource for many older clients. Targeting those aged 50+, Ageing Well enables us to link with the wider priorities of 'Prevention First' Outcomes and the Adult Social Care system. Our delivery approach is to provide accessible routes for citizens to take part in regular weekly health and wellbeing activities, one-to-one casework support and specialist debt and money advice including access to hardship grants. We offer a broad range of activities ensuring we have sessions for different interest groups and abilities, so no one feels excluded and opportunities for companionship and support are maximised, in addition, our Ageing Well Programme encourages wider participation with Settlement activities and inter-generational action, with Ageing Well Members encouraged to attend non-Ageing Well specific activities such as Pilates and Zumba. Many Ageing Well Members build important long-term relationships with the Settlement and other Members, attending multiple sessions, building long-term friendships so reducing isolation, enhancing wellbeing and independent living. During the year under review, specifically for Ageing Well we delivered:

Sports & Community Centre:

- Community Choir – 19 sessions with a footfall of 180.
- Tai Chi – 45 sessions with a footfall of 750.
- Art Group – 45 sessions with a footfall of 567.
- Bowls Club – 47 sessions with a footfall of 594.
- Dog Training Club – 18 sessions with a footfall of 170.
- Dance Fit – 41 sessions with a footfall of 614.
- 'Cuppa & Chatter' Befriending Group – 44 sessions with a footfall of 888.

Nature & Wellbeing Centre

- Tai Chi – 62 sessions with a footfall of 471.
- Art Group – 39 sessions with a footfall of 206.
- Walk & Talk – 33 sessions with a footfall of 144.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
 For the year ended 31 March 2025

In addition to the above, many of our general activities including Mindfulness and Wellbeing Sessions were well attended by Ageing Well Members with an average attendance of well over 10, and our Money Advice Team supported 504 individuals aged 50+ of whom 83 were 65+ and 19 were 75+.

Training & Learning:

Training and Learning is an area we have been successfully developing and building, in particular community learning. We have our own full-time in-house trainer and utilise the skills and experience of our wider staff team to deliver a wide range of courses and workshops, including money management and benefits, something we are actively doing and for which we have and are receiving very positive feedback. We have also developed and introduced a range of internal 'mandatory' courses for all staff which we have opened-up to others, for example, via the City Council's Neighbourhood Network Scheme. We are also delivering more 'softer' courses for our service users and in partnership with others. During the year under review, we delivered:

- 137 'formal' courses/workshops with an attendance of 1,361, courses included:
 - Mindfulness
 - Equality & Diversity
 - Disability Awareness
 - Adult Safeguarding
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Mental Health Awareness
 - Introduction to Drug Awareness
 - Trauma Informed Practice
 - Mental Health & Debt
 - Introduction to Universal Credits
 - Introduction to Council Tax
 - Introduction to PIP & AA
 - Various wellbeing workshops e.g., nutrition, sleep, social connection

Asset development

Birmingham Settlement owns two large sites: the Nature & Wellbeing Centre by Edgbaston Reservoir, and the Sports & Community Centre in Kingstanding. The former was bequeathed to the Settlement in 1923, with the latter purchased by the charity in 1935 as the Settlement moved with its communities to the new outer-city estates as the traditional inner-city 'back-to-backs' where the Settlement was originally established were being cleared.

The Nature & Wellbeing Centre, known previously as the 'Playing Fields' had been leased and used by various parties over the years but had been dormant since the early 1990s when an existing small sports pavilion was destroyed by arson. The Sports & Community Centre, known previously as the 610 Centre had been on a long-term lease to Birmingham City Council since 1971 as the Settlement had retained its original base at Summer Lane.

Pre-pandemic and following successful engagement with surrounding communities including several 'pop-up' events, the Settlement took the decision to commit reserves and endowments realized by the sale of its original site in Summer Lane to develop the Nature & Wellbeing Centre. At the same time Birmingham City Council approached the Settlement wishing to exit the lease on the Sports & Community Centre and to return the site early, which after discussion, including consideration of the need to improve and develop the site for today's needs, was agreed. The Sports & Community Centre was formally returned to the Settlement in December 2020 with Birmingham City Council's Youth Service retaining a presence until end of March 2024.

Developing these sites has been and is a major undertaking for the Settlement which has been gearing up for these developments for several years, including investing existing funds, freeing up reserves, and obtaining Charity Commission approval to use an endowment held by the charity following the sale of its original site in Summer Lane to reinvest into the two properties to help build a more sustainable future for the charity and the communities it serves.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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As such, the Settlement has been going through a positive period of major change and development as it brings these sites back to life, the below provides an update on each site.

Birmingham Settlement Nature & Wellbeing Centre:

In 2020 we were given planning permission to build a small community wellbeing centre comprising a community room, toilets, kitchenette, and office – phase one of our development which was completed in August 2021 when the 'Red Shed' was formally opened. The Red Shed was built using sustainable materials and renewables including ground sourced heat pumps ensuring the building has minimal carbon-impact and provides efficient 'green' energy. The Red Shed gave us the opportunity to deliver a range of activities to bring the site to life, to engage and build partnerships as we prepared for phase two of the development.

In September 2021 we submitted our planning application for 'phase two' of the development which includes two geodesic learning domes (6m and 8m diameters) and an amphitheatre along with various landscaping and re-greening projects to create an eco-friendly multi-purpose site that acknowledges the area as a 'Site of Importance to Nature Conservation' and fits with the immediate surrounds including the bordering Local Nature Reserve.

Our planning application was finally approved by Birmingham City Council in May 2022 with contracts awarded in September 2022, works starting in November 2022 and completing in December 2023.

Bearing in mind the impact of recent events such as Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis on mental health, wellbeing and affordability, combined with the need to reverse climate change and the need for greater environmental awareness and learning, the timing of the project is right and the decision to proceed using mainly our own designated reserves allowed us to go ahead, to adapt and flex as we moved through the developments, and complete with minimal delay. The Nature & Wellbeing Centre is a unique space for the city just a short walk along the canals from the City Centre.

The site is being used by many individuals, community groups, and other partners. Our planning permission includes the development of a further building, 'phase three' of our development, an activity centre which will give us more scope for activity and use of space, something we are now looking at and aim to progress in the coming year.

Activities

Following the completion of phase two we have embedded existing and introduced a wider range of activities to support and engage, many are already reported in the details above including Little Settlers, Ageing Well, Training & Learning to name but a few. In addition, the Nature & Wellbeing Centre has provided us the opportunity to build a team of volunteers to help maintain and develop the site, from planting and clearing, to supporting community activities.

In total 94 people have volunteered to support the Nature & Wellbeing Centre, contributing more than 1,681 hours of support during the year under review for which we are very grateful. Regular activities during the year in addition to those already mentioned above have included:

- Friends of the Field – 96 sessions to support planting and similar supported by 74 individuals.
- Growing Together – volunteer-led growing sessions – 43 sessions with a footfall of 157.
- Plant with Pat – volunteer-led gardening sessions – 31 sessions with 91 attendees.
- Health & Wellbeing Group – 39 sessions with a footfall of 346.
- Walk & Talk (Wellbeing) – 33 sessions with a footfall of 144.
- Tai Chi – 62 sessions with a footfall of 471.
- Morning Yoga – 38 sessions with a footfall of 237.
- Art Classes – volunteer-led – 39 sessions with a footfall of 206.
- Dog 'Walk & Talk' – volunteer-led dogwalkers group – 99 sessions with a footfall of 762.
- Archery session – volunteer-led – 31 sessions with a footfall of 102.
- Edgbaston Reservoir Running and Wellbeing Group – volunteer-led – 43 events with a footfall of 2,002.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) – 38 days 'gifted' by firms with an attendance of 238 representing a total of 1,574 volunteer hours donated in-kind.

**The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

For the year ended 31 March 2025

In addition to the above, we delivered a broad range of one-off activities, from family-fun days to nature trails to scavenger hunts, in total 33 one-off events with a footfall of 747 supported by 40 individual volunteers. We also hosted a range of sessions with external agencies such as the Heart of Birmingham Vocational College who brought 22 students along on 7 occasions to experience the site and get involved in activities they wouldn't normally take part in.

Finally for this section, in June 2024 we were delighted to host second (now annual) Neighbourhood Futures Festival in partnership with the University of Birmingham's Centre for Urban Wellbeing. A 4-day festival of events, talks, and activities to promote nature and positive environment action in urban spaces, showing what can be done while building community connections and supporting local participation in activities to improve community wellbeing and sustainability. We welcomed more than 30 partners delivering a range of thought-provoking sessions with a footfall of over 1,500 during the week.

What the above has and continues to demonstrate is that there is a desire and need for the space and types of activities we are developing; there will be difficult times as we embed but the future is positive for the Nature & Wellbeing Centre as the photos below show.



Summer fun at community engagement event



Sunflowers!



Neighbourhood Futures Festival – opening panel discussion



Neighbourhood Futures Festival – Centre for Urban Wellbeing workshop

The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 31 March 2025



Planting bulbs in raised beds.



Beginner gardener sessions; "Plant with Pat"



Second polytunnel – finish and fit out underway!



Polytunnel kitted out and producing!



Crops planted out in one of raised beds



Young trees and lavender grown from cuttings, we were able to give away 150 Cherry, Rowan and Hazle trees.

The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 31 March 2025



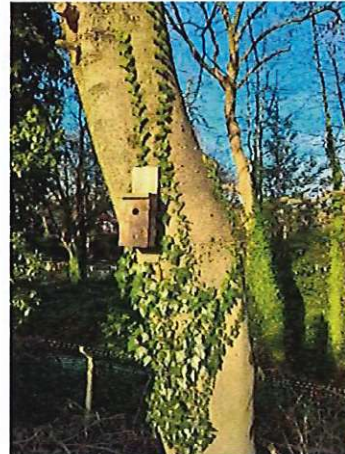
Scavenger hunt; looking for mini beasts.



Making mini bird feeders from recycled materials



Proud makers of bird boxes in one of our workshops



One of many volunteers made birdboxes in situ; several have successfully hosted nests!



Composting bays in action



Winter Wonderland at the domes!

The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
 For the year ended 31 March 2025

Birmingham Settlement Sports & Community Centre:

Following the Sports & Community Centre's return to the Settlement in December 2020, which followed a long lease to Birmingham City Council, we have stuck to our initial aim of firstly re-opening (post Covid), and gradually building activities and presence while we assessed priorities, including physical improvements to the site that were and still are needed. The site had seen little investment for many years and was under-used prior to its return, however, with several halls, sports facilities, and open spaces, it has great potential, although it does need time and investment to bring it back to life. It is a desperately needed asset in an area officially termed 'left behind' by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which has played an important role in bringing people together in the past, something we are pleased to say is happening once more under our stewardship.

In the year under review, we have continued a process of gradual improvements across the site. This has included the replacement/upgrade/refurbishment of the outside sports pitch, supported by the Football Foundation to create a modern, accessible, and far more usable multi-sports Play Zone which is open to the public via our own and our partners community sports sessions, and through an on-line booking system. We have also repainted and brightened the Sports Hall including new lighting to make a brighter, more attractive, more usable space; refurbished the Upper Hall including new windows, ceiling, lighting, floor, and decoration to make a much brighter, attractive, and accessible multi-purpose space which is used for a range of activities from Little Settlers to Tai Chi to Art Group sessions and more; and further developed our free on-site community gym which offers our community a chance to access gym facilities in a quieter, more relaxed environment as opposed to larger commercial gym settings; an opportunity to try equipment and exercise in a safer more personal environment. Aside from drop-in sessions, we have tailored our timetable to offer several sessions that are service specific including Woman's Hour, over 50's and youth and young people's access. In addition to the above, last year we purchased the garage next door using endowed reserves and this year demolished that garage to create a car park that not only makes it easier for people to access the site, but also frees up space at the back of the site for the development of a green/nature programme to mirror some of the activities we have developed at our Nature & Wellbeing Centre by Edgbaston Reservoir – a priority for next year.

All in all, the Centre is continuing to take shape and we have plans to develop a wide range of additional opportunities for local people to become more engaged and help us to build sustainability for the site together.

Activities:

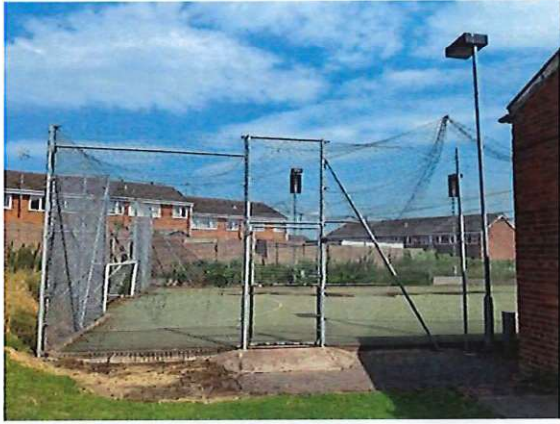
While the above has been moving us forwards, we have also been building a range of activities with our partners and community to encourage engagement and involvement in shaping the future for the Sports & Community Centre. Many of the activities are mentioned earlier in this report but in addition, we have delivered:

- Embedding the Centre as a place of 'Warm Welcome' offering a safe, accessible space for residents to keep warm, have access to free refreshments, free wi-fi, books, games, and engage with staff members to get involved in the activity programmes including money advice. During the year under review, we had a footfall of over 1,800 visitors.
- We are now delivering 39 regular weekly activities, many mentioned above but including partnerships with others such as:
 - Food Cycle who cooks and deliver a free community meal every Saturday.
 - The We're In This Together (WITT) Disability Support Group delivering two 3-hour sessions for people with special needs twice a week.
 - Panthers Judo Club meeting every Tuesday.
 - The Aston Villa Foundation delivering youth football sessions every Monday and Wednesday.

The coming year will see further change and development as we continue to expand and do more with our community.

The photos below example some of the site improvements and activities delivered during the year.

The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 31 March 2025



Old sports pitch entrance



New sports pitch entrance



Old sports pitch



New sports pitch



Sports Hall pre improvements



Sports Hall – new LED lighting, cleared and painted.

The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 31 March 2025



Upper Hall – old dark windows – summer 24



Upper Hall – new lighter windows – summer 24



Upper Hall – pre works – summer 24



New ceiling and LED lights going in, raised corner removed



Floor being sanded, sealed, and varnished.



Job well done!

The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 31 March 2025



Old meeting room pre-conversion into
Community Gym



Community Gym – new ceiling, LED lighting,
upcycled floor tiles, new equipment



Community Gym – youth induction!



Community Gym

Shops:

Our three charity shops (Sutton Coldfield, Boldmere, and Wylde Green) performed well this year generating a surplus of more than £50k. However, it must be borne in mind that financial contribution is not the only consideration with the shops; the opportunities and support they give to individuals through engagement with the Settlement, along with providing affordable goods to those who may be struggling in the current climate are also key factors. The shops have a strong and committed staff team who provide an outlet and support for many vulnerable, older, and isolated people, plus those looking to improve employment prospects through retail experience as volunteers. Indeed, our volunteer teams play a pivotal role within the shops and the breadth of scope and talent is remarkable, from the Saturday Duke of Edinburgh participants to the work experience students, to the jobseekers, the retired and those seeking to offer their time and give something back to society; we could not run our shops without the support and help of our volunteers and their support is greatly appreciated.

We will continue to monitor performance, including how we link core services to the shops.

**The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**For the year ended 31 March 2025

Volunteers

In the years immediately after the pandemic and as the cost-of-living crisis continues to hit, we lost many volunteers who lost touch or found themselves in changed circumstances, however, we are pleased to say that in line with our developments at the Nature & Wellbeing Centre and Sports & Community Centre, numbers are once more building, including support to the shops and we now have a volunteer team of more than 100 regular volunteers who provide enormous benefit to the charity, and volunteering is an area we are looking to build on in the coming years.

All trustees provide their contribution to the welfare of the Settlement on a voluntary and unpaid basis.

Financial Review

Income for the year amounted to £2,112,914 (2024: £1,919,431). Notable changes from the previous year included increases of £43,960 in 'Donations, legacies, and gifts', £16,307 in 'Charity Shops' income, £49,387 in 'Investment' income, and an increase of £112,769 in 'Grants and contract' income, comprising a range of new grants and contracts, particularly around Money Advice. 'Other income' saw a drop of £28,940.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £2,242,008 (2024: £1,949,531). Notable changes from the previous year related to increased expenditure of £78,636 on 'Advice and advocacy' which in the main related to increased spend on Money Advice; and increased spend on 'Community Action' of £193,989 which reflects the investment and increase in activities at our Nature & Wellbeing and Sports & Community Centre sites. Elsewhere, spending was comparable with previous years.

The Settlement finished the year with an unrestricted deficit of £62,505, a restricted deficit of £31,291, and an endowment deficit of £35,298, giving an overall deficit of £129,094 (2024: deficit £30,100).

While a deficit outcome for the year is something we would always look to avoid, we do need to acknowledge that the Settlement is on a path of significant change and that we are committed to developing our assets and in particular, the Nature & Wellbeing Centre by Edgbaston Reservoir and the Sports & Community Centre in Kingstanding, both need investment which has begun from our reserves, and that investment needs to be managed with care. For the past few years, we have built and carried reserves to allow us to embark on these developments, and while we cannot run with deficits for too long, we have built reserves to help cover expected shortfalls in the short and medium term as we adapt.

Trustees will take further advice with a view to reinvesting funds to achieve the best return as the developments progress. As such the figures relating to current asset investments / cash held at bank are skewed as much of that money is committed to those developments.

Principal funding sources:

In addition to investment income, income comes from three principal separate sources:

- Grants and contracts from local, national, quasi government bodies and partner agencies.
- Donations and grants from charitable trusts and foundations; and
- Income generated by the Settlement charity shop.

Trustees recognize and appreciate the growing importance of grants and the huge contribution charitable trusts and foundations make to the work of the Settlement. The Settlement is registered with the Fundraising Regulator to ensure that it meets and complies with the standards laid down by the FRSB.

**The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**For the year ended 31 March 2025

Reserves Policy

Trustees consider that in the current uncertain economic climate for the sector, and with the need for continued diligence and restructuring that the Settlement should aim to hold as free reserves a level equivalent to six months running costs (excluding funds the Settlement holds as payments or grants to partners). Budgeted expenditure for 2025/26 (minus payments or grants to partners) is in the region of £1,800,000 and the current level of free or 'contingency' reserves stands at £770,000. Given the number of projects, their diverse sources of funding and the Settlement's recent history, the trustees consider that while contingency reserves are slightly lower than we would like, this level of reserve would enable the charity to arrange an orderly reduction in activities in the event of a major loss of funding.

In addition to the above, the Settlement's developing asset base, specifically the Nature & Wellbeing Centre by Edgbaston Reservoir and the Sports & Community Centre will require investment to build enterprise and generate sustainable income for the charity long-term. Trustees acknowledge this will take time and require significant investment and have therefore decided to invest reserves, where appropriate, and endowment funds held by Settlement to support the Settlement's long-term development in these areas as necessary, and as approved by the Charity Commission.

Investments

Birmingham Settlement currently holds in a mix of secure, accessible, cash accounts to ensure the Settlement has the financial fluidity to support the current spend on developments. However, with the major self-funded works now almost complete, we are moving into a position to take a longer-term view on investments and the trustees will be taking advice on the most appropriate way forward for the charity in the coming months.

Trustees will continue to keep our investment policies under consideration in line with our spending profile.

Plans for Future Periods

The Settlement plans to continue its principal activities as set out above but is aware that global and national uncertainties will continue to have an impact on the communities and individuals where we work. We know the need for our services has grown and is likely to continue to grow; and we know the way services are delivered has changed and again, will continue to change, for example, the use of space and digital platforms plus the need for financial support and advice. To this end we must be fleet of foot and make sure we are flexible, adaptable, and realistic in our approach. In many ways we are in a fortunate position, we are financially sound for the short and medium terms as we continue our programme of asset development and are in a position to continue with that development taking into account the need for open, safe and flexible physical and digital spaces to widen and grow our reach and meet the needs of our communities. This includes building our partnerships with trusts, foundations, the statutory and private sectors, as well as third sector delivery groups; growing earned income and building our volunteer base to make sure we maximize our work. To this end the Settlement will:

- Continue to review its property portfolio and commitments to ensure value for money and long-term sustainability, in particular the developments at the Nature & Wellbeing Centre and the Sports & Community Centre.
- Assess and learn from a range of pilot programmes and existing work with a view to greater social enterprise to generate income to support grassroots local delivery that is community driven, including the use of assets.

The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

- Continue to build and shape responsive services based on the needs and voice of the community.
- Continue to revise our structure with an emphasis on flexibility and service integration.
- Review the composition of the Board of Trustees to ensure it has the skills and representation it needs.
- Utilise and develop digital and IT services to widen delivery and improve monitoring and evidencing the impact of our work.
- Widen and more clearly define services to ensure programmes support all aspects of our communities including specific projects in areas where we see gaps in service.

Going Concern

The trustees have considered the accounts and undertaken a review of activities and known income for the coming year. While there are always uncertainties the Settlement has secure reserves which will allow the charity to adapt to change and reduction should that be necessary, the trustees consider there is no reason to doubt the charity will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Birmingham Settlement for the purposes 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. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- c) make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in operation.

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Information to the Auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

The Birmingham Settlement
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 1/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:

Matthew Gregson – Chair

Matthew Gregson

Martin Holcombe – Company Secretary

Martin Holcombe

The Birmingham Settlement

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Birmingham Settlement (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Consolidated and Charitable Company Balance Sheets, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland").

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees 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 trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of the charitable group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure in the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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 directors 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 trustees 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.

The Birmingham Settlement

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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 the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' 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 of the charitable company or parent are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' 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' exemption in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement set out on page 22, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes 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 group's and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable 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

The Birmingham Settlement

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

with ISA's (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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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

Our audit approach included the following elements:

- Assessment of the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur.
- Assessment of the laws and regulations identified as being of significance in the context of the charity.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and how the charity is complying with that framework.
- We obtained an understanding of the charity's policies and procedures on compliance with laws and regulations, including documentation of any instances of non-compliance.
- We obtained an understanding of the charity's policies and procedures on fraud risks, including knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- We ensured that our audit personnel have the experience and knowledge to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We use appropriate audit resources and tools to guide us in selecting the right audit approach.

In considering the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, we considered how our approach to the audit has affected the likelihood of detection. This was affected by:

- the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities;
- the effectiveness of the entity's controls; and
- the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

In determining those matters that are of significance, both quantitative and qualitative factors are relevant to such consideration.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

The Birmingham Settlement

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Signed by:

Mark McLean

35BD92752FCD4B6
Mark McLean FCA, Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
Thomas & Young Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

11 December 2025

Carleton House
266-268 Stratford Road
Shirley
Solihull
B90 3AD

Thomas & Young Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Birmingham Settlement

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Permanent Endowment funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income						
Donations, legacies and gifts	2	267,617	95,170	-	362,787	318,827
Income from other trading activities						
Charity shops income	3	262,302	-	-	262,302	245,995
Investment income	4	62,451	-	20,885	83,335	33,948
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Grants and contract income	5	333,986	1,047,978	-	1,381,964	1,269,195
Other income	6	22,526	-	-	22,526	51,466
Total incoming resources		<u>948,882</u>	<u>1,143,148</u>	<u>20,885</u>	<u>2,112,914</u>	<u>1,919,431</u>
Resources expended						
Cost of generating funds						
Costs of generating voluntary income						
Fundraising and publicity costs	7	(59,278)	-	-	(59,278)	(58,113)
Charity shop costs	7	(225,871)	-	-	(225,871)	(208,029)
Charitable activities						
Realised loss on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Advice and advocacy	7	(353,908)	(432,465)	-	(786,373)	(707,737)
Community Action	7	(346,876)	(741,974)	(56,183)	(1,145,033)	(951,044)
Governance costs	7	(25,454)	-	-	(25,454)	(24,607)
Total charitable expenditure		<u>(1,011,386)</u>	<u>(1,174,439)</u>	<u>(56,183)</u>	<u>(2,242,008)</u>	<u>(1,949,531)</u>
Net (losses)/gains on revaluation of investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net (losses)/gains on revaluation of fixed assets	10	-	-	-	-	-
Gross transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(62,505)</u>	<u>(31,291)</u>	<u>(35,298)</u>	<u>(129,094)</u>	<u>(30,100)</u>
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2024		<u>1,511,586</u>	<u>177,485</u>	<u>1,578,817</u>	<u>3,267,888</u>	<u>3,297,988</u>
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2025		<u><u>1,449,081</u></u>	<u><u>146,194</u></u>	<u><u>1,553,519</u></u>	<u><u>3,138,794</u></u>	<u><u>3,267,888</u></u>

More details on the Permanent Endowment funds are given in note 15. There are no recognised gains or losses for 2025 or 2024 other than those included in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 33 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

The Birmingham Settlement

CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover	2,029,579	1,885,483
Operating costs	(2,242,008)	(1,949,531)
Operating deficit	<u>(212,429)</u>	<u>(64,048)</u>
Interest receivable and similar income	83,335	33,948
Net income/(deficit) for the year	<u>(129,094)</u>	<u>(30,100)</u>

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

The Consolidated Summary Income and Expenditure Account is derived from the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on page 28, which together with the notes to the financial statements on pages 33 to 48, provides full information on the movements during the year on all funds of the group.

The notes on pages 33 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

The Birmingham Settlement

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10(a)		1,725,403		1,768,980
Investments			-		-
			<u>1,725,403</u>		<u>1,768,980</u>
Current assets					
Stocks and work in progress	11	4,718		4,718	
Investments		900,000		1,205,021	
Debtors	12	270,252		257,673	
Cash at bank and in hand – Endowment funds		55,949		55,949	
Restricted funds		146,194		177,485	
Unrestricted funds		290,087		111,958	
		<u>1,667,200</u>		<u>1,812,804</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(253,809)		(313,896)	
Net current assets			<u>1,413,391</u>		<u>1,498,908</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>3,138,794</u>		<u>3,267,888</u>
Reserves					
Permanent Endowment Funds	15		1,543,519		1,578,817
Restricted funds	16		146,194		177,485
Birmingham Settlement owned buildings	18		651,488		723,020
Revenue reserve	18		27,593		18,566
Contingency reserve	18		770,000		770,000
Other designated reserves	18		-		-
			<u>3,138,794</u>		<u>3,267,888</u>

The notes on pages 33 to 48 from part of these financial statements.

For the year ended 31 March 2025, the group was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies but as this group is a charity, it is subject to audit under the Charities Act 2011.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board on 1/12/25 and signed on its behalf by



MR M GREGSON
Director

Company Registration No. 01946604

The Birmingham Settlement

CHARITABLE COMPANY BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	Note				
Tangible assets	10(b)		749,488		784,444
Investments			-		-
			<u>749,488</u>		<u>784,444</u>
Current assets					
Stocks and work in progress	11	4,718		4,718	
Investments		900,000		1,205,021	
Debtors	12	270,252		257,673	
Cash at bank and in hand – Endowment funds		55,949		55,949	
Restricted funds		146,194		77,485	
Unrestricted funds		290,087		111,958	
		<u>1,667,200</u>		<u>1,812,804</u>	
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	13	(695,464)		(782,228)	
Net current assets			<u>971,736</u>		<u>1,030,576</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,721,224</u>		<u>1,815,020</u>
Reserves					
Permanent Endowment Funds	15		125,949		125,949
Restricted funds	16		146,194		177,485
Birmingham Settlement owned buildings	18		651,488		723,020
Revenue reserve	18		27,593		18,566
Contingency reserve	18		770,000		770,000
Other designated reserves	18		-		-
			<u>1,721,224</u>		<u>1,815,020</u>

The notes on pages 33 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

For the year ended 31 March 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies but as this company is a charity, it is subject to audit under the Charities Act 2011.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board on 1/12/25 and signed on its behalf by



MR M GREGSON

Director

Company Registration No. 01946604

The Birmingham Settlement

CONSOLIDATED CASHFLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Net cash outflow/(inflow) from operating activities	23	(208,692)	59,767
Returns on investments and servicing of finance			
Interest received		50,510	20,007
Capital expenditure and financial investment			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(515,350)
Purchase of investments		-	(1,205,020)
Sale of investments		305,020	-
		<u>146,838</u>	<u>(1,640,596)</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in cash			
		<u>146,838</u>	<u>(1,640,596)</u>
Reconciliation of net cashflow to movement in net funds			
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in the period	24	146,838	(1,640,596)
Net funds at 1 April 2024	24	345,392	1,985,988
		<u>345,392</u>	<u>1,985,988</u>
Net funds at 31 March 2025	24	<u>492,230</u>	<u>345,392</u>

The notes on pages 33 to 48 form part of these financial statements

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1.1 Charity information

The Birmingham Settlement is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales, and is also registered as a charity in England and Wales. The registered office is Sports & Community Centre, 600 Kingstanding Road, Birmingham, West Midlands, B44 9SH.

1.2 Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required. No restatements were required.

1.3 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Birmingham Settlement meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

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

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified for the revaluation of freehold land and buildings and investments.

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

1.4 Basis of consolidation

The group accounts include the accounts of the charitable company and Birmingham Settlement Properties, each made up to 31 March 2025. A separate Statement of Financial Activities, or income and expenditure account, for the charitable company itself is not presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

1.5 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.6 Restricted funds and charitable expenditure

The Settlement has a number of projects which are grouped for management purposes into advice, care and community action. Many of these projects are financed in part or in whole by grants and donations specifically for that project. Such income is regarded by the directors as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. Direct costs for each project which is funded in part by restricted income are analysed between restricted and unrestricted funds. Restricted funds also bear an appropriate proportion of support costs.

The charitable company has received certain grants and donations for capital purposes and towards the cost of specified capital expenditure. Such grants and donations are included as restricted income in the Statement of Financial Activities. The related capital expenditure is included in the balance sheet as fixed assets and depreciation on those assets is charged against the restricted funds.

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designed for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the funds are charged against the fund.

1.8 Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustee' Annual Report.

Gifts in kind donated for resale cannot be practicably valued at fair value due to the volume of low value items. They are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within "Income from other trading activities".

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity, however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy, the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the charity.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charitable group and include audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the group.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Premises overheads and other overheads have been allocated proportionately to the direct staff costs.

1.10 VAT

Irrecoverable input VAT is included in charitable and other expenditure and capital expenditure on the basis of the costs to which it relates.

1.11 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are shown at cost or valuation. Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of assets less their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives by equal annual instalments at the following rates:

Freehold land and assets under construction	Nil
Investment freehold land and buildings	Nil
Other freehold property	2% to 10% on cost
Short life leasehold property	Over period of the lease or 20% on cost
Vehicles	20% on cost
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	5% to 20% on cost
Computers	25% on cost

Any impairment in the value of fixed assets is charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

1.12 Heritage assets

Information on the cost or valuation of heritage assets is not available and the cost of providing such information significantly outweighs any benefit to the users of the accounts. The heritage assets are not recognised on the balance sheet as disclosed at note 9(b).

Acquisitions only arise when donated to the charity or if it is believed that they will further the charity's objectives. Once acquired they will be preserved by the charity in order to keep their historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities to such a high level as to contribute to knowledge and culture. A register of all assets held by the charity if available and the assets themselves are accessible to the public with prior agreement. Heritage assets are to be held for the foreseeable future.

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

1.14 Investment properties

Investment properties for which fair value can be measured reliably without undue cost or effort are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains/(losses) on investments' in the SoFA.

1.15 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Items donated for resale are not included in the financial statements until they are sold.

1.16 Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.17 Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.18 Pension costs

The Settlement contributes to a Group Money Purchase Personal Pension Scheme, to which employees also contribute.

Contributions are charged to the Consolidated Statement of financial Activities in the year in which they are incurred.

1.19 Employment benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

2 Donations, legacies and gifts

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Barrow Cadbury Trust – Planning & Influence	22,500	-	22,500	45,000
Barrow Cadbury Trust: Migration – Policy & Practice (host grant)	73,984	-	73,984	33,333
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	66,000	-	66,000	89,667
Other donations (under £50K)	105,133	95,170	200,303	150,827
	<u>267,617</u>	<u>95,170</u>	<u>362,787</u>	<u>318,827</u>

3 Income from shops

The trading activities of the shops are undertaken for fundraising purposes and comprise principally the sale of donated goods.

4 Investment and other income

	Unrestricted £	Endowment £	2025 £	2024 £
Bank interest	29,626	20,885	50,510	20,007
Income from lettings	32,825	-	32,825	13,941
Investment and other income	-	-	-	-
	<u>62,451</u>	<u>20,885</u>	<u>83,335</u>	<u>33,948</u>

5 Grants and contract income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Money & Pensions Service	-	335,163	335,163	348,265
BCC Neighbourhood Network Scheme	-	310,000	310,000	348,038
Football Foundation	-	154,394	154,394	-
Aston & Nechells, & Central Foodbanks	55,282	-	55,282	-
BCC (LEAS)	105,000	-	105,000	105,000
BCC Prevention & Communities	-	-	-	20,375
Staffs & West Midlands CRC	-	-	-	86,474
Heart of England	-	13,937	13,937	45,603
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	35,972	35,972	98,681
Ingeus	42,426	-	42,426	41,406
Ministry Of Justice	-	41,434	41,434	-
Money Advice Outreach < £10k	45,679	-	45,679	33,221
Trussel Trust	59,757	-	59,757	45,115
Other Trusts < £40k	25,842	157,078	182,920	97,017
	<u>333,986</u>	<u>1,047,978</u>	<u>1,381,964</u>	<u>1,269,195</u>

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

6 Other income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Training and learning internal courses	14,480	-	14,480	5,430
Sundry income	8,046	-	8,046	46,036
	<u>22,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,526</u>	<u>51,466</u>

7 Total resources expended

	Voluntary Income £	Charity Shops £	Advice & Advocacy £	Community Action £	Governance £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Costs directly allocated to activities							
Staff costs	30,354	99,432	543,885	415,606	-	1,089,277	1,061,339
Direct project costs	19,580	18,601	37,374	264,232	-	339,787	337,611
Site costs	-	77,226	37,673	337,246	-	452,145	172,401
Support costs allocated to activities							
Staff costs	4,763	15,602	85,340	65,212	17,954	188,870	180,249
Site costs	1,395	4,568	24,988	19,094	7,500	57,545	120,652
Information Technology	1,071	3,508	19,189	14,663	-	38,431	44,531
Other Costs	2,116	6,933	37,924	28,979	-	75,953	32,747
	<u>59,278</u>	<u>225,871</u>	<u>786,373</u>	<u>1,145,033</u>	<u>25,454</u>	<u>2,242,008</u>	<u>1,949,530</u>

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

8 Staff costs including shop staff

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	1,121,060	1,098,665
Social security costs	92,235	89,212
Pension costs	52,653	48,509
Life insurance	3,204	3,557
	<u>1,269,152</u>	<u>1,239,943</u>

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

No trustee received any remuneration. No trustees (2024: Nil) were reimbursed for travelling expenses to attend meetings at the offices of the charitable company.

The average number of employees during the year by function was

	2025 No	2024 No
Advice and Advocacy	13	14
Community Action	14	12
Fundraising and shops	12	11
Management, administration and support	9	9
	<u>48</u>	<u>46</u>

There were on average 100 (2024: 50) volunteers working part time each week.

9 Net outgoing resources

The following items are included in arriving at net outgoing resources

	2025 £	2024 £
Expenditure		
Depreciation and amounts written off on disposal	43,577	43,577
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
Auditors – for group audit services in the current year	7,500	9,500
Operating leases		
Land and buildings	79,375	70,179
Other	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

10 Tangible Fixed Assets

(a) Group	Freehold Land £	Freehold Buildings £	Fixtures, fittings motor vehicles and computers £	Total £
Cost				
1 April 2024	70,000	1,716,157	35,000	1,821,157
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
31 March 2025	70,000	1,716,157	35,000	1,821,157
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation				
1 April 2024	-	48,677	3,500	52,177
Charge for the year	-	40,077	3,500	43,577
Write off on disposals	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
31 March 2025	-	88,754	7,000	95,754
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value				
31 March 2025	70,000	1,627,403	28,000	1,725,403
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
31 March 2024	70,000	1,667,480	31,500	1,768,980
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The short life leasehold property is occupied by the charitable company for charitable purposes.

Freehold land was valued as at 12 March 2020 by Richard Bache BSC Hons MRICS of Pennycuik Collins Chartered Surveyors on an open market basis for existing use at £70,000.

The freehold property comprises buildings transferred from investment property in 2023, as the building is occupied by the charitable company for charitable purposes. It was valued on 14th April 2023 by Johnson Fellows LLP, Chartered Surveyors, on an open market basis assuming vacant possession at £385,000.

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

10 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

If freehold land had not been revalued it would have been included at the following amount

	2025 £	2024 £
Group	20,000	20,000

The charitable group has heritage assets as disclosed at note 9(b)

(b) Company	Freehold Land £	Freehold Buildings £	Fixtures, fittings motor vehicles and computers £	Total £
Cost				
1 April 2024	70,000	731,621	35,000	836,621
Additions	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
	<u>70,000</u>	<u>731,621</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>836,621</u>
31 March 2025	70,000	731,621	35,000	836,621
	<u>70,000</u>	<u>731,621</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>836,621</u>
Depreciation				
1 April 2024	-	48,677	3,500	52,177
Charge for the year	-	31,456	3,500	34,956
Write off on disposals	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>80,133</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>87,133</u>
31 March 2025	-	80,133	7,000	87,133
	<u>-</u>	<u>80,133</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>87,133</u>
Net book value				
31 March 2025	70,000	651,488	28,000	749,488
	<u>70,000</u>	<u>651,488</u>	<u>28,000</u>	<u>749,488</u>
31 March 2024	70,000	682,944	31,500	784,444
	<u>70,000</u>	<u>682,944</u>	<u>31,500</u>	<u>784,444</u>

Heritage assets

In addition to the capitalised fixed assets held for the charitable company's own use, it has title to a collection of archive documents relating to the history of The Birmingham Settlement. These comprise 353 items in total, mainly minute books and correspondence with some accounting records and photographs relating to the period from the foundation of The Birmingham Settlement in 1899 to 1970.

The archives are held at Birmingham Central Library. Access to the records is at the discretion of management and is granted to those requiring access for research purposes. There is no policy to acquire further documents, other than those documents similar to the existing items which are no longer required in the general management of the charitable company. There is no intention to dispose of these items.

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

11 Stocks and work in progress

	Group		Company	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Stocks	4,718	4,718	4,718	4,718

12 Debtors

	Group		Company	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	187,934	124,000	187,934	124,000
Prepayments	61,517	51,623	61,517	51,623
Other debtors	3,090	15,810	3,090	15,810
Accrued income	17,711	66,240	17,711	66,240
	<u>270,252</u>	<u>257,673</u>	<u>270,252</u>	<u>257,673</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Company	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	163,695	197,947	605,350	666,279
Accruals	49,774	46,514	49,774	46,514
Deferred income (note 15)	40,340	69,435	40,340	69,435
	<u>253,809</u>	<u>313,896</u>	<u>695,464</u>	<u>782,228</u>

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

14 Deferred income

Deferred incoming resources are made up as follows:

	2025 £
As at 1 April 2024	69,435
Incoming resources deferred in the current year	40,340
Less: amounts released	(69,435)
	<hr/>
As at 31 March 2025	40,340
	<hr/> <hr/>

Deferred income relates to unrestricted amounts received in the year ended 31 March 2025 that relate to future deliverables and have been received specifically to fund expenditure after that date.

15 Permanent endowment funds

Company	2025 £	2024 £
Endowed assets	125,949	125,949
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reserves brought forward	125,949	125,949
Transfers	-	-
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reserves carried forward	125,949	125,949
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Group	2025 £	2024 £
Endowed assets	1,543,519	1,578,817
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reserves brought forward	1,578,817	1,568,810
Investment income	20,885	10,007
Expenses	(56,183)	-
Realised gains/(losses)	-	-
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reserves carried forward	1,543,519	1,578,817
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15 Permanent endowment funds (Continued)

The Permanent endowment funds as at 31 March 2025 are the capital assets of two charities – Birmingham Settlement Properties and the Graham Street Charity. Graham Street was closed and transferred to Birmingham Settlement in 2021.

From April 18, a total return approach was adopted to investment with respect to the permanent endowment by the charity. The endowment was originally invested at £447,802, and the trustees use CPI as a basis for calculating the value in real terms each year. At the balance sheet date, the core value of the endowment was £617,155 (2024 £656,073). The value included in fixed and current assets is £1,088,519 (2024 £1,123,817). This provides an unapplied total return of £471,364 (2024 £467,744) which is available for the Board to use in furtherance of the charity's activities.

The charity is committed to developing its two main assets and with consent from the Charity Commission, in February 23 'cashed' its invested endowment to ensure the charity had accessible funds to cover spend in real time on the developments at the Nature & Wellbeing Centre, Edgbaston, and the Sports & Community Centre, Kingstanding. Liquid funds are held in current and short-term holding accounts and the Board will take further advice with a view to reinvesting contingency and designated funds as developments progress.

16 Restricted funds

Company and group

The funds of the company and the group include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and the unamortised balance of grants and donations to fund the purchases of tangible fixed assets and future expenditure.

	Balance at 31 March 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Revenue					
Advice and Advocacy	87,442	398,263	(432,465)	-	53,240
Community Action	77,929	744,885	(729,860)	-	92,954
Learning and Training	12,114	-	(12,114)	-	-
	<u>177,485</u>	<u>1,143,148</u>	<u>(1,174,439)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>146,194</u>
Total for company	177,485	1,143,148	(1,174,439)	-	146,194
	<u>177,485</u>	<u>1,143,148</u>	<u>(1,174,439)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>146,194</u>
Total for group	177,485	1,143,148	(1,174,439)	-	146,194

Restricted revenue funds for advice and advocacy, and community action, are credited with incoming resources for particular projects and charged with the related expenditure.

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

17 Analysis of group net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	679,488	-	1,045,915	1,725,403
Current assets	1,023,042	146,194	497,064	1,667,200
Current liabilities	(253,809)	-	-	(253,809)
	<u>1,449,081</u>	<u>146,194</u>	<u>1,543,519</u>	<u>3,138,794</u>

18 Unrestricted funds

	Contingency Reserve £	Designated reserves £	Birmingham Settlement owned buildings £	Revenue reserve £	Total £
Company and group					
At 1 April 2024	770,000	-	723,020	18,566	1,511,586
Transfer between funds	-	-	(40,076)	40,076	-
Surplus/(Deficit) in year	-	-	(31,456)	(31,049)	(62,505)
	<u>770,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>651,488</u>	<u>27,593</u>	<u>1,449,081</u>

The contingency reserve is an amount set aside to provide funds for six months of operations, together with an estimate of redundancy costs which would be incurred should operations have to cease.

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

19 Charities of which The Birmingham Settlement is sole trustee

The company is sole trustee of Birmingham Settlement Properties, which owns certain properties and investments, comprising the endowed capital of the charity, held for the benefit of the charitable company.

The capital assets and income and expenditures of Birmingham Settlement Properties are incorporated in the consolidated accounts of The Birmingham Settlement.

	Birmingham Settlement Properties	
	Endowed	Unrestricted
	£	£
Incoming Resources	20,885	-
Charitable Expenditure	(56,183)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Incoming Resources	(35,298)	-
Net gains/(loss) on revaluation of investment assets	-	-
Funds brought forward	1,452,868	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Funds carried forward	<u>1,417,570</u>	<u>-</u>

20 Indemnity insurance

The charitable company has indemnity insurance which protects the charity, its directors, trustees, officers and employees from any loss or consequences of neglect or default on their part. The cost of the premium in the current year amounted to £8,793 (2024: £7,815).

21 Capital and financial commitments

Capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts is £nil (2024: £nil).

Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

22 Operating leases

Annual commitments of the group and charitable company in respect of operating leases are as follows:

	Land and buildings		Office equipment	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Leases expiring:	£	£	£	£
within one year	-	32,000	-	-
in two to five years	230,500	71,250	-	-
in more than five years	-	-	-	-
	<u>230,500</u>	<u>103,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

23 Reconciliation of changes in resources to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before revaluation	(129,094)	(30,100)
Depreciation	43,577	43,577
Interest receivable and similar income	(50,510)	(20,007)
Investment (gains)/losses	-	-
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of assets	-	(893)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(12,579)	43,197
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(60,086)	23,993
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	<u>(208,692)</u>	<u>59,767</u>

24 Analysis of net funds

	1 April 2024	Cashflows	31 March 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>345,392</u>	<u>146,838</u>	<u>492,230</u>

The Birmingham Settlement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

25 Members

The charitable company is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital in accordance with the Memorandum of Association, every member is liable to contribute a sum of £1 in the event of the company being wound up. At 31 March 2025 there were 10 members (2024: 13).

26 Related party transactions

Advantage has been taken of the exemption in FRS8 paragraph 3(c) not to disclose transactions with group companies, as consolidated financial statements are prepared.

Martin Holcombe, the Chief Executive, is also a trustee of the George Fentham Birmingham Charity. During the year the George Fentham Birmingham Charity made a donation of £10,000 (2024: £10,000) for distribution as grants to individuals in need. During the year the Settlement made grants of £14,424 (2024: £10,000) from the donation. In addition, the George Fentham Birmingham Charity made a donation of £5,500 (2024: £5,500) towards the Settlement's Little Settlers project.

Matthew Gregson, the Chair, is a partner of Anthony Collins Solicitors who were used in relation to Birmingham Settlement's purchase of the garage at 596 Kingstanding Road, Birmingham B44 9SH. These costs totalled £4,053 in the year (2024: £3,857). In addition, Matthew Gregson is a Trustee and Chair of the Aston & Nechells Foodbank charity (Can Do 4:13 – company number 07508388, charity number 1141676) who contracted Birmingham Settlement to deliver money advice, contract value £29,510 (2024: £13,050).