



# FINANCE REPORT

Upper Springfield Development Trust Ltd

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT 2023-2024**

## UPPER SPRINGFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST COMPANY

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### Directors

Noel Rooney	Chair
Brenda Turnbull	Vice Chair
Seamus O'Prey	Chair: Finance, Audit and Risk
John McGeown	Chair: Human Resources and Governance
Cathy Fitzsimons	Member
Thérèse McKernan	Member
Harry Connolly	Member
John McCavana	Member: Appointed 1 May 2023

### Auditors

Jones Peters  
Registered Auditors  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Church Street  
Banbridge  
BT32 4AA

### Bankers

First Trust Bank  
36 University Road,  
Belfast  
BT7 1NH

### Solicitors

Edwards and Co  
28 Hill Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2LA

### Registered Office

687 Springfield Road  
Belfast  
BT12 7FP

### Company Registration No:

NIC 100425

### Charity Registration No:

NI 031294

In pursuit of good governance and service excellence, Upper Springfield Development Trust Ltd deliver services through one connected company – Top of the Rock – of which Upper Springfield Development Trust is the sole trader.

### **PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY**

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USDT promote the benefit of inhabitants of the Upper Springfield area of Belfast and its environs (the “area of benefit”) without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or political, religious or other opinions.

### **STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT**

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USDT promote the benefit of inhabitants of the Upper Springfield area of Belfast and its environs (the “area of benefit”) without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or political, religious or other opinions.

The promotion for the public benefit of urban regeneration in the area of benefit by all or any of the following means:

1. the relief of poverty, in such ways as may be thought fit.
2. the relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment.
3. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among the unemployed and providing the unemployed with work experience.
4. the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance or business advice or consultancy to provide training and employment opportunities for the unemployed in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:
5. In setting up their own businesses; or to existing businesses.
6. the provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for those who by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities.
7. To promote and create opportunities for participation in the arts in the community.
8. The development of the capacity and skills of the members of the Upper Springfield community in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

And without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing other charitable purpose, for the benefit of the public as the director may from time to time decide.

Upper Springfield Development Trust Ltd as an organisation are charitable as they fall under the approved purpose, as listed in the Charities Act (NI 2008), specifically:

1. The relief of poverty, in such ways as may be thought fit.
2. The relief of unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance to find employment.
3. The advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among the unemployed and providing the unemployed with work experience.
4. This is evidenced through internal /external auditing and evaluation to funders and the area’s integrated partnership.
5. The provision of financial assistance, technical assistance or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for the unemployed in cases of financial or other charitable need through help.

6. The provision or assistance in the provision of recreational facilities for those who by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities.
7. To promote and create opportunities for participation in the arts in the community.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

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I am immensely grateful to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and partners who have worked tirelessly throughout the year. Their unwavering commitment and passion have been instrumental in driving our mission forward. Each staff member has played a crucial role in achieving our goals, and their collective efforts have made a significant impact on the community. On behalf of the board I extend heartfelt thanks to everyone involved for their hard work, dedication, and the positive energy they bring to our organisation.

Local community development organisations such as USDT are the lifeblood of our communities, serving as indispensable catalysts for positive change. Deeply rooted in the heart of our neighbourhoods, USDT staff team members possess an intimate understanding of local needs, aspirations, and challenges. This unique perspective allows them to design and deliver place-based programmes that are precisely tailored to the specific circumstances of our community.

Our approach to community development is rooted in a methodology that emphasises collaboration, inclusivity, and sustainability. This year, we have continued to implement programmes that are tailored to the specific community needs. By engaging with local residents, stakeholders, and partners, we have ensured that our initiatives are relevant and effective. Our methodology focuses on building strong relationships, fostering community participation, and creating lasting change. Through this approach, we have been able to address various social, economic, and environmental challenges, contributing to the overall well-being of our community.

USDT is more than just service providers; we are architects of transformation. By forging strong partnerships with residents, we help individuals build our local community's capacity. Through a diverse range of initiatives, (Sure Start, Belfast Works, Action Ability Belfast, Neighbourhood Renewal, drugs' team, youth team, Health Living Centre, Advice Services) USDT tackle complex social issues head-on and create opportunities for everyone.

USDT's impact is often immeasurable. Our work fosters social cohesion, reduces inequality, and enhances overall quality of life. By providing access to education, employment, and healthcare, early years, community development we help dismantle barriers and create pathways to a brighter future.

USDT in collaboration with our local partnerships, continue to transform neighbourhoods, revitalise local economies, and empower marginalised communities. We have created safe havens for young people, provided support for the elderly, and offered lifelines to families facing hardship. Our achievements are a testament to the dedication and expertise of our management and staff, as well as the strength and resilience of the communities they serve.

Sustainability has been a key focus in our efforts to provide life opportunities for all. We have adopted a holistic approach that encompasses social, economic, and environmental dimensions. By prioritising the well-being of our community members, fostering economic growth, and being mindful of our environmental footprint, we have created programs that offer sustainable life opportunities. These initiatives include skills training, job placement services, and support for small businesses, all aimed at empowering individuals to achieve financial stability and improve their quality of life.

Investing in local community development organisations is an investment in the future. By supporting such work, we build stronger, more equitable, and sustainable communities for everyone. Let us recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of USDT helps to make locally.

I take this opportunity to thank USDT board members and our staff for their ongoing professional commitment in delivering service excellence.

Noel Rooney Chair

### **ADVICE SERVICES**

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Since the Upper Springfield Advice Service (USAC) became an integral part of USDT in July 2017 it has continued to deliver a high quality, confidential, free, independent, accessible and impartial information service. It is a service that meets the Upper Springfield community's need by addressing issues around welfare reform, benefit entitlement, tax credits, housing, health, employment, consumer, education, financial capability and crisis intervention. During this past year the service managed to clawback £3.5m for local people!

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL**

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Neighbourhood Renewal is a high-level government strategy (Department for Communities) that seeks to develop community renewal; economic renewal; social renewal and physical renewal - to help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods. USDT acts as the lead body for the DfC contract. Over the year it delivered:

- Management of the area's integrated partnership.
- New health and wellbeing centre's development;
- Area consultation's implementation.
- Community safety forum.
- Health development themes.
- Promotion of thematic community days: health, Christmas, Halloween, and summer festivals
- Policy responses

### **ACTION ABILITY BELFAST**

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This project promotes social inclusion by engaging with people with disabilities and their families. The programme and services worked with children, young people and adults with a range of disabilities – from severe complex needs to social & emotional issues; to support positive life changes environmentally, physically and socially. Action Ability Belfast's aim is to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities into the community and to support the development of their natural abilities.

### **YOUTH TEAM**

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The youth team have continued to deliver programmes and projects to enhance our area's young people's social inclusion. We achieve this by using informal group work, experiential learning, and detached work and accredited training.

This integration and coordination of local youth work across the Upper Springfield community ensures the team caters for local children/young people's specific needs; adds value to all the projects and spaces where we operate.

## **BELFAST WORKS CONNECT**

Belfast Works Connect (BWC) is an innovative employability project supporting individuals who face challenges to employment, who are not currently in full-time employment or full-time education.

BWC is a consortium of five community employment service providers, who have been working together since 2015 in the collective delivery of city-wide employment support programmes across Belfast and the surrounding areas, initially funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and now funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

UKSPF funding's primary goal is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, with three investment priorities: communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. Belfast Work Connects was awarded £9,846,136 by UKSPF under the people and skills priority to support economically inactive individuals between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2025.

### **Belfast Works Connect**

Five charitable community organisations deliver Belfast Works Connect across all areas of Belfast:

- Upper Springfield Development Trust (lead partner)
- Ashton Community Trust
- East Belfast Mission (EBM)
- GEMS NI
- Impact Training

Our partners are highly skilled and experienced in designing and delivering programmes that enhance employability skills' development; targeting unemployed, economically inactive, under employed, NEETS, ethnic minorities, lone parents, those experiencing homelessness, and people with disabilities from the most disadvantaged communities. The partnership has been working together since 2015 in the collective delivery of a Belfast city-wide employment support programme.

## **HEALTH LIVING CENTRE**

The Healthy Living Centre is a neighbourhood based; community led approach to health improvement. With a strong belief in the concept of a healthy mind and healthy body leading to a healthy life, the project provided a wide range of high-quality services and support to assist the community in their efforts to achieve good health and wellbeing.

As in previous years, the Healthy Living Centre continues to develop. Within a difficult environment of severe health inequalities, deprivation and austerity, the local Whiterock/Upper Springfield community faces enormous challenges which impacts on their health and wellbeing. Our task remains for us to help address local people's health needs, whether that be physical, mental or emotional, and assist and support them in their endeavours to maintain a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

- Self-Harm Intervention Programme
- Talking Therapy Programme
- Local health and well-being public events
- Physical activity programmes for residents delivered in area outreach centres.
- Complementary therapy sessions
- Stress management programmes
- Weight management programmes
- Bespoke 'Cook-it' programmes
- Smoking cessation programmes
- Mindfulness sessions

## **SAOL ÚR SURE START**

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Sure Start is a government led initiative aimed at giving every child the best possible start in life and which offers a broad range of services focusing on family health, early years care and education and improved well-being programmes to children aged four and under. Over the past year the project work with a wide range of families and children.

## **OUTSOURCE**

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Outsource is a social enterprise (setting up or the refining of payroll, bookkeeping, auditing, PAYE and budgeting systems. It also works with groups to promote and embed best practice in all their financial functions.

## IMPACT: OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

USDT provides a wide range of services that enables community development to flourish through our own work and with our community partners. The focus for the past year has been: youth development, disability support and advocacy, neighbourhood regeneration; welfare advice; training and employability, early years and social enterprise (finance). Each of those projects excelled in their impact and positive outcomes for all users.

People with disabilities supported	748
Young people supported	1,300
Children and young people summer scheme	1,326
Parenting programmes	84
Volunteers supported	580
Volunteers' hours supported	7,310
Families supported	1,073
Home visits undertaken	2,287
Childcare places provided	72
People attending parent and child programmes	826
OCNS obtained	1,563
Job related training	1,342
Supporting Economically Inactive Clients	1,950
Gained employment	174
Involved with community arts	232
People access training	1,597
Friday and Saturday evening youth session	92
Adults with disabilities attended summer scheme	124
Counselling sessions delivered	605
People supported through health and well-being activities	3,738
0-4-year-olds supported	1006
Carers supported	1,153
Families registered	1011
People receiving advice services/cases	1,238
Total advice sessions	3,533
Advice claw back	£3.3m

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### Governing Document

Upper Springfield Development Trust Limited is a company registered in N. Ireland, which was incorporated under the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 on 11 September 1996. The company is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company's objectives are charitable in nature, and it has established charitable status.

The company's business is managed by the board of directors who are the members of the company.

## **TRUSTEES' APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING**

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The trustees recruit and select new trustees as set out in the governing document.<sup>1</sup> The Board recruits new trustees with regards to skills' gaps and the new members' potential to make a real contribution to the charity's overall governance.

We predicate trustees' appointments on our organisational values and make new members aware of their legal responsibilities under charity and company law. Members' induction pack outlines *our* Articles of Association, Board structure, organisational structure, decision making processes, finances *et al.* Our formal induction provides new board members with the information and training they need to take up their appointment as effectively as possible.

## **FINANCE, PAY AND REMUNERATION**

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USDT operates robust financial procedures which the Board we regularly review and independently assess. We have clear financial management systems to ensure effective and appropriate use of spend; administering resources cost-effectively, transparently and accountably with clear audit trails.

All Board members give their time freely and no member received any remuneration during the year. Details of Board members' expenses are disclosed in the annual accounts.

USDT base the senior staff team's pay on the NJC Salary Scales as a guide to appropriate remuneration for all staff pay. Pay levels are currently subject to annual increments or cost of living expenses.

## **ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

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The Board administers the charity: meeting at least 11 times per year. As part of its structure the Board operates three sub committees: finance, audit and risk; human resources, and remuneration. The Board appoint a chief executive to manage the charity's day to day operations. To ensure effective daily management the chief officer has delegated authority within terms of delegation through the Board's approval for operational matters including finance, employment and direct charitable activities.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR**

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### **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

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The company aims to:

- To develop USDT's capital asset base to provide a more comprehensive area wide service.
- To champion the delivery of the new access to the hills programme (City Council)
- To champion the design, development and build of the area's new health and wellbeing centre.
- Further continue the Upper Springfield area's economic and social regeneration.
- Promote social inclusion.
- Place education at the heart of regeneration.
- Enhance and develop Upper Springfield's natural and built environment.
- Support the continued improvement in the health and well-being of the people in the Upper Springfield area.
- Enhance access to employment opportunities for local people.
- Ensure company accountability through effective processes and communication.
- Assist, augment and co-operate with the work of statutory and voluntary services engaged with the area's economic, social and physical improvement.

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<sup>1</sup> This is detailed in the board recruitment policy.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

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Our approach to the management of risk is informed by the need to ensure that the risks inherent in the pursuit of our objectives are understood, will be manageable if realised, and that appropriate mitigation measures are planned or in place. Responsibility for the management of specific risks is carried by named individuals and groups, but the highest-level risks, those that have a direct bearing on the USDT's capacity to achieve its strategic objectives, are managed by the senior management team. The USDT's finance and audit risk committee plays an active role in risk monitoring and considered progress reports during the year on work that will enhance and further embed risk management procedures across the whole organisation.

## **RESERVES' POLICY**

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As of 31 March 2023 free reserves amount to a surplus of £..... On an ongoing basis the directors will establish sufficient reserves to meet the company's normal working capital requirements

## **STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

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The directors are responsible for preparing the annual report, and the company financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have prepared the Financial Statements in accordance with proper Financial Reporting Standards. The Company Financial Statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss for that period.

In preparing those Financial Statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state that the Financial Statements comply with national standards regarding the Company Financial Statements, that applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements.
- prepare the Company Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business, in which case there should be supporting assumptions or qualifications as necessary.

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

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

## **AUDITORS**

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Jones Peters are deemed to be reappointed in accordance with Section 487 (2) of the Companies Act 2006

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies,

This report was approved by the Board on XXXX December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

NOEL ROONEY  
DIRECTOR

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UPPER SPRINGFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST LIMITED

### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

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USDT as a charity and as a body in receipt of public funds places particular obligations upon it but the Board is in any case committed to upholding the highest standards of corporate governance.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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Independent auditors' report to the Upper Springfield Development Trust Ltd

We have audited ....

### **CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ???2022**

### **BALANCE SHEETS AS AT .....**

### **CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

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### **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

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